

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

TELEPHONE, BARCLAY 8160  
POST OFFICE BOX 241  
CITY HALL STATION

(GJS:VD)

Department of Justice  
Bureau of Investigation  
15 PARK ROW, 14TH FLOOR  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

FEBRUARY 28, 1923.

DIRECTOR,  
Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D.C.

Attention Mr. J.E. Hoover.

RE: GOVERNMENT POLITICAL  
ADMINISTRATION:  
Secret Service of Soviet Russia.

Dear Sir:-

I am forwarding herewith a chart prepared by Special Agent Geo. J. Starr of this office, in which chart the Agent after studying the report submitted by Informant [redacted] and after consultation with this same Informant, has attempted to explain in a graphic manner the organization of the Soviet Secret Service.

The locations of the district headquarters in Soviet Russia are interesting, for if you mark them on a map you will find that they are all located west of Moscow, that is, in the direction of the frontier. The enormous territory east of Moscow has not a single office according to the information received. There are also offices in the allied Soviet Republics south of Russia. It is presumed that Canada is included in the district of the United States, altho no definite information on this particular country has been received. No information has been received as to the branch which has jurisdiction over the G.P.U. Troops, and therefore they are shown as an independent branch.

If the bureau has any data which would correct or amend this chart I would be glad to receive a photostat copy of the corrected chart.

Very truly yours,

MAR 19 1923

1 (ENC.)

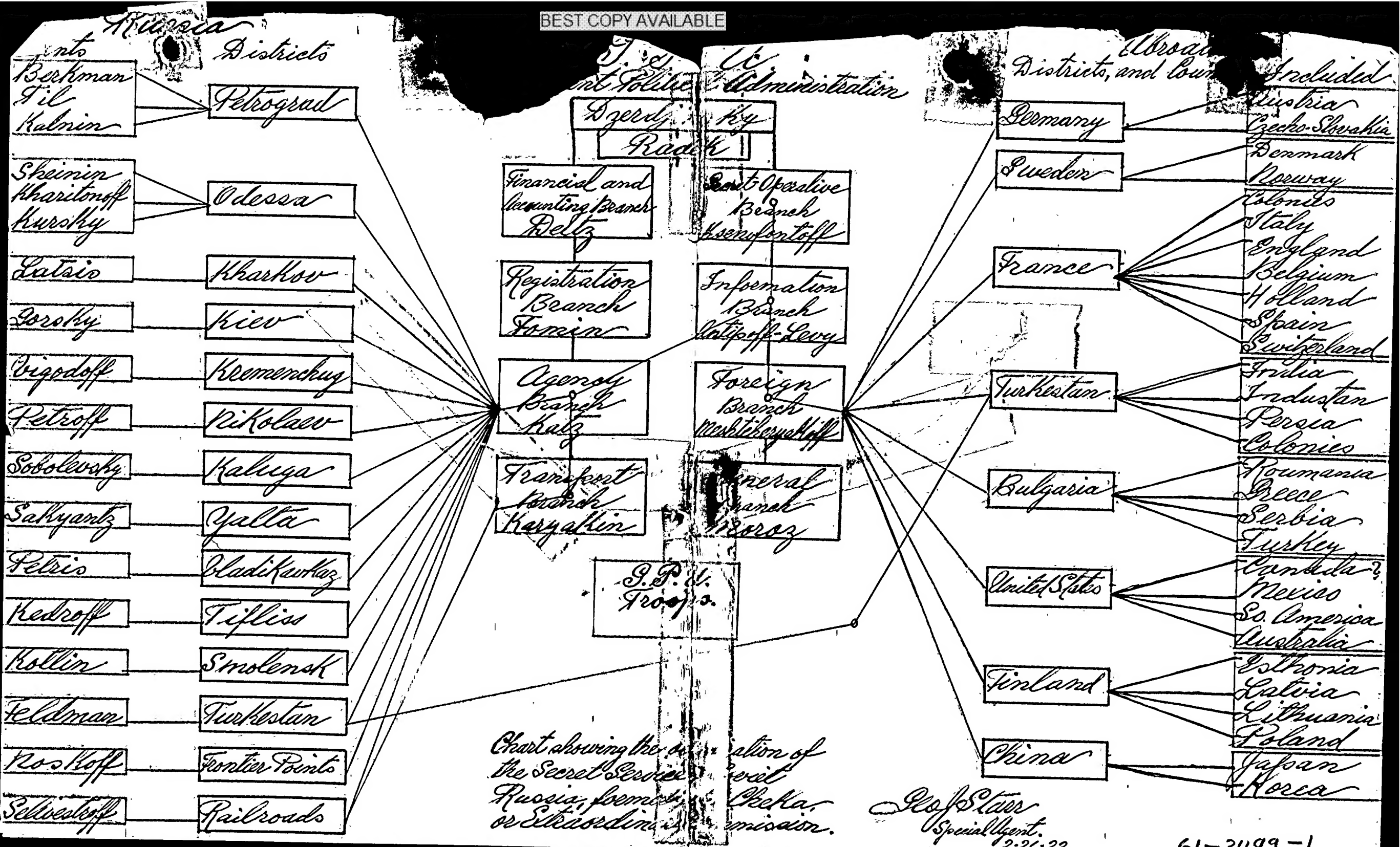
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BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
MAR 1 1923 P.M.  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

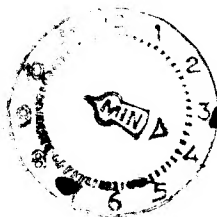
HOOVER

FILE

EDWARD J. BRENNAN,  
Special Agent in Charge

MAR 3 1923





LEGATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
RIGA

MAR 17 1923

Riga, Latvia.

February 14, 1923.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MAY 18 1923

No. 422

The Honorable,

The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to forward herewith a report received through confidential sources   concerning the establishment of special sections of the State Political Administration in the principal cities of Soviet Russia for the purpose of observing and reporting on the movements of foreigners. b7D

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

P.W.B. COLEMAN.

Enclosure:- "Observation Over Foreigners  
In Soviet Russia."



F4

1923.

OBSERVATION OVER FOREIGNERS IN SOVIET RUSSIA.

All departments of the G.P.U. in the capitals and chief towns of the S.S.S.R. are to have sections whose special duties will be to keep observation over foreigners who come to Russia. The initiative for this project is entirely that of DZERZHINSKY, the idea being to guarantee the secrecy of information regarding Soviet Russia, a question greatly interesting foreign states, who are transferring the work of collecting information into Russia itself, sending spies into the country. These anti-foreigner sections are to be known as "Registration Departments", and all passports of persons arriving from abroad will go to these departments, which will demand photographs of persons registered. Actually these departments will be in touch with the G.P.U., but officially they will be considered as independent departments in order to avoid giving the impression that all foreigners arriving in Russia are immediately brought into touch with the G.P.U.

LEGATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
RIGA

Riga, Latvia,

February 14, 1923.

*DJ*

No. 421

The Honorable,

The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to forward herewith a table  
showing the present organization of the Bolshevik  
State Political Administration (formerly the Cheka.)

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F.W.B. COLEMAN.

Enclosure:- "Organization of the State  
Political Administration."

APR 6 - 1923

61-3499-3

HOOVER

ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE POLITICAL ADMINISTRATION.

The present Chief of the State Political Administration, Unschlicht, has reorganized it, and divided it into the following departments:

- |                                    |   |                     |
|------------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| I. The Secret Operative Department | - | Chief, Ksenofantov. |
| II. The Information Department     | - | " Antipov.          |
| III. The Foreign Department        | - | " Meshtsheryako.    |
| IV. The General Department         | - | " Moroz.            |
| V. The Financial Department        | - | " Deitz.            |
| VI. The Registration Department    | - | " Fomin.            |
| VII. The Agents' Department        | - | " Katz.             |

The President of the Presiding Collegium is Unschlicht. The members are ~~Belobrodov~~, ~~Ksenofontov~~, ~~Meshtsheriakov~~, and ~~Apeter~~.

The sub-sections and their chiefs are the following:

- |                          |   |   |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| I. Sub-section Petrograd | - | Chief J. Bergman; Assistant Thiel and Kalnin. |
| II. Odessa               | - | Sheinin and Kharit                            |
| III. Kharkov             | - | Iahsis  |
| VI. Kiev                 | - | Berfunkt.                                     |
| V. Kremenets             | - | Vygodov                                       |
| VI. Nikolayev            | - | Petrov  |
| VII. Kalish              | - | Sobolev                                       |
| VIII. Yalta              | - | Sakiats                                       |
| IX. Vladikavkaz          | - | Petrovsky                                     |
| X. Tiflis                | - | Kedrov  |
| XI. Vladivostok          | - | Khodrovsky                                    |
| XII. Smolensk            | - | Kotlin  |
| XIII. Turkestan          | - | Feldmann                                      |
| XIV. Kursk               | - | Vasitin.                                      |

The Administration is in the hands of the Commissar F.E. Dzerzhinsky appointed by the Soviet of Commissars, and the member of the Communist International, Radek.

The Foreign Department (III) is subdivided into eight divisions:

1. Germany, 2. Sweden, 3. England, 4. Turkestan,
5. Bulgaria, 6. America, 7. Finland, 8. China.

To these Districts are attached the following  
sub-districts:

To District 1 - sub-districts in Austria, Czecho-  
Slovakia, and

Sweden (7).

" 2 -

"

in Denmark, Norway,

" 3 -

"

in France, Italian  
colonies, Belgium  
and Holland,

" 4 -

"

in India, Hindostan,  
Persia, British  
colonies, and Spain,

" 5 -

"

in Roumania, Turkey,  
and Greece,

" 6 -

"

in Australia,

" 7 -

"

in Esthonia, Latvia,  
Lithuania and  
Poland,

" 8 -

"

in Japan.

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT PHILADELPHIA, PA

JOURNAL TO BE MADE AT ORIGINATING OFFICE ONLY

REPORT MADE AT: <b>PHILADELPHIA, PA</b>	DATE WHEN MADE: <b>7/20/23</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: <b>7/19/23</b>	REPORT MADE BY: <b>J.F.MC DEVITT</b>
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TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE:

**SMUGGLING OF JEWELRY AND SECRET AGENTS INTO U.S.-  
SOVIET RUSSIAN PROPAGANDA**

FACTS DEVELOPED:

AT PHILADELPHIA:

Attached to the New York copy of this report are two clippings given to me by a confidential informant who speaks very poor English, but who is reliable. I am attaching these clippings to the New York copy of my report for the reason that the information might be of some help to the Agents of that office, as <sup>indicated</sup> indicated in the report of their Agent Charles A. Bancroft dated July 13th 1923 entitled: ~~R~~RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH- Alleged Smuggling of Ruby." This particular clipping was taken from an Anti-Bolsheviki paper printed as far as I can learn in Sofia, Bulgaria and is the larger clipping of the two which I am attaching and the particular paragraph which I have marked on the right hand column tells how the Soviet Government of Russia is smuggling "Brilliants" into the U.S. through Canada by their women agents who take third class passage. The other clipping is said to be taken from a Monarchist paper printed in the Russian language in Germany, one of many such papers in Europe said to be engaged in exposing the workings of Soviet Russia. The paragraph marked IX is said to speak of how the "Chekas" or Secret Agents

62-4270

62-3499-4

62-4270-46

AUG 2 1923

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROUTED TO: FILE

REFERENCE:  
MCS.

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3-WASH: 1-N.Y.; 1-BOSTON  
1-PHILADELPHIA

DOCKETED

J.F.MC BEVITT

7/19/23

#2

of the Soviet government of Russia are commissioned with full authority to carry on propaganda work even to a point of committing murder and that these credentials are carried in their pockets.

My informant tells me that many of these "Chekas" come from Latvia and Lithuania. They ship to Cuba where they reside for one year; then they enter the United States through the port of New York. Their particular work is "terrorizing" and their plan is to make the acquaintance of Russians in the U.S. and by intercepting their mail, get information as to whether or not they have relatives in Russia, secure their addresses and notify the Soviet government officials in Russia, who then arrest them, thereby forcing these American relatives to work here for Soviet Russia. These Chekas are said to be at present in Philadelphia and they have learned that two former soldiers of the White Army are now residing at a certain address, so they have engaged the room next to them in order to steal their mail. but friends have quietly "tipped" them off and these friends will report to me regularly as to their movements. One of these Chekas is from Latvia and has only been about three weeks in the U.S. He was a seaman in the Soviet Russian Navy and is about 30 yrs. old. He has left his documents in the care of another Russian in Philadelphia whose correct address I expect to obtain shortly.

CONTINUED.

Phila. File # 34-1061

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

PHILADELPHIA, PA

JOURNAL TO BE MADE AT ORIGINATING OFFICE ONLY

REPORT MADE AT:

PHILADELPHIA, PA

DATE WHEN MADE:

7/25/23

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE:

7/25/23

REPORT MADE BY:

J.F. MC DEVITT

TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE:

SMUGGLING OF JEWELRY AND SECRET AGENTS INTO THE U.S.-  
SOVIET-RUSSIAN PROPAGANDA

FACTS DEVELOPED:

AT PHILADELPHIA:-

Reference is made to my report dated July 18th 1923 entitled: SMUGGLING OF JEWELRY AND SECRET AGENTS INTO THE U.S.- SOVIET RUSSIAN PROPAGANDA, in which I told of how the Soviet Government of Russia was smuggling jewelry into the U.S. by women agents through Canadian ports and secret agents through the port of New York after a short legal residence in Cuba, and how this jewelry is being sold to pay their expenses.

Subsequent to the writing of this report, Director Burns forwarded to all Bureau offices Identification Order 452 which directs all Bureau offices to be on the "look out" for two Russian anarchists, one a man named PHILIP KURINSKY and a woman named SOPHIE BUSHWICK alias ANNA BUSHWICK alias MRS. ANNA KAUFMAN, who have been chosen to assassinate PRESIDENT Harding and ATTORNEY-GENERAL DAUGHERTY. Whether or not these people are associated with the above plan of propaganda, I, of course, do not know.-

-----  
Before the revolution in  
Russia, all criminal murderers were sent  
by the TZAR GOVERNMENT to SACHALIEN

FILE NO.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUL 27 1923  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROUTED TO:

HOOVER

REFERENCE:

MCS

COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:

3-WASHINGTON; 1-N.Y.; 1-BOSTON  
1-PHILADELPHIA

J.E. MC DEVITT

7/25-/23

#2

ISLAND, SIBERIA . When the Bolsheikk took over the government of Russia, they released 10,000 of these prisoners who were hardened criminals and murderers. SACHALIEN ISLAND, I understand, housed no other prisoners but professional murderers, the political prisoners being sent to North Siberia in Russia. These 10,000 murderers were given appointments in the Soviet Government as commissaries and are the "Chekas" mentioned in my former report or secret agents of the Soviet Government of Russia commissioned to terrorize the government people. Now, the leaders of the present Soviet Government have decided to send these these criminals outside of Russia to carry on the same work as they had been hired to do in Russia. Already many of these are said to have arrived in the U.S. They are furnished with false passports by the Soviet Government of Russia. For instance, if they are Lettish, they are given Caucasian passports. As I stated in my previous report, it was known that some of them are now in Philadelphia and that I am expecting to get a line on them before long.

I also understand that part of the instructions given to these criminals by the Soviet Government of Russia is to in any manner ingratiate themselves into the good graces of people connected with the U.S. Secret Service, in order to find out who the Russians are in our employ.

-----

On account of the big split in Russian Church affairs, there are many members of the Old Church who are against the present Soviet



J.F. MC DEVITT

7/25/23

#3

form of government. Among these are some who are in sympathy with the monarchy - old form of government. These people are 100% against the Bolsheviki. Each and every Church has its percentage of this type of persons, but in Philadelphia, most of them are uneducated and not of the type that we could employ as confidential informants, but I am informed that there is a higher type of people in New York City.

In connection with this case, I am calling the attention of the Bureau to clipping attached to the original of this report taken from the PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC LEDGER dated July 26th 1923. This clipping states that when the steamship HOMERIC docked in New York yesterday, custom officials seized jewelry valued at \$100,000 found in the baggage of FRANK AUDITORE called the "millionaire stevedore" of Brooklyn who was charged with having failed to declare the gems. When asked to explain, it appears that AUDITORE stated he was bringing them to this country for a woman named MOREHEAD" to whom he is engaged. The seizure is said to have been one of the largest and most spectacular ever made in that port. Deputy Collector of the port of New York J.T.O'CONNOR questioned AUDITORE.

It might be well if our New York office would interview Collector O'CONNOR in order to determine whether or not there is any connection in this matter.

CONTINUED.

*Public Ledger  
7/26/23*

## SEIZE GEMS ON LINER

**Jewels Valued at \$100,000 Taken  
From "Millionaire Stevedore"**

New York, July 25. — Customs officials seized jewels valued at \$100,000 found in the baggage of Frank Auditore, "millionaire stevedore," of Brooklyn, on his arrival tonight on the steamship Homeric. It was charged that he had failed to declare the gems.

Asked to explain the presence of the undeclared gems, Auditore said he was bringing them here for a woman named "Morehead," to whom he was engaged.

The seizure was one of the largest and most spectacular ever made in this port. Advice received from abroad by the Treasury Department said that Auditore had come into the possession of some rare pieces of jewelry.

When the Homeric steamed up the bay, a Coast Guard cutter met her, and two special Treasury agents boarded the liner. They went directly to Auditore's baggage. After the jewels were found, J. T. O'Connor, Deputy Collector of the Port, questioned him.

*McDonist*

July 27, 1923.

JEN/IMR

62-4270-48

Mr. Walter C. Foster,  
P.O. Box 481,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:

I have read with considerable interest the report of Special Agent McDevitt of your office for July 19th upon the smuggling of jewelry and secret agents into the United States. It is very important that any information of this character be obtained and, of course, substantiated. From the information contained on the second page of this report, it would appear that by continuing the investigation we may be able to definitely determine whether or not there is any foundation to the activities of the so-called "Chokas", particularly in Philadelphia.

I wish that you would see that this matter is given very careful attention.

Very truly yours,



Director.

61-3499-6  
~~62-4270-48~~

MAILED

JUL 27 1923

Case originate

PA.

Philadelphia

8/1/23

8/1/23

F. McDEVITT

SMUGGLING OF JEWELRY and SECRET  
AGENTS INTO U.S.-SOVIET RUSSIAN  
PROPOGANDA

AT PHILADELPHIA:

61-3499

Refer to my reports dated July 19th 1923 and July 25th 1923 entitled "SMUGGLING OF JEWELRY AND SECRET AGENTS INTO U.S. - SOVIET RUSSIAN PROPOGANDA" and to Bureau letter dated July 27th 1923 initialed "JEH:LMR"-62-4270-45 directing that I try to substantiate the information contained in the above reports.

My informant is a Russian and is in a position to see and hear much of what is going on in Radical affairs among Russians - Previous information furnished by this informant resulted in my substantiating it to a great extent, but in spite of this he draws upon his own imagination at times so I am watching him carefully. He informs me that an advertisement appeared in "NOVOY, RUSS. SLOVO" published at 178 - 2nd Avenue, N.Y. City, on July 31st, which reads as follows - "RUSSIAN ELECTROTECHNICAL INSTITUTE IN PARIS have courses for monitor assistant engineers, engineers, etc., program and condition free - a ~~ZEMLIANITZKY~~ 2811 Orthodox St., Phila., PA."

The informant explains that ZEMLIANITCKY is the American Agent of a Russian named DUSHEN whom he thinks is the head of the Russian Spies or Checkas throughout the world (outside of Russia) and that DUSHEN'S headquarters are in Berlin, Germany. The duties of these various chiefs like ZEMLIANITCKY are to acquaint themselves with RUSSIANS in the countries in which they operate and to endeavor to influence them to join their spy system and that the above advertisement is one way in which they carry on their work of acquainting themselves. ZEMLIANITCKY'S scheme is to pretend that

COPY TO: 3-WASH; 2-PHILA.

JS:

61-3499-7

J. F. McDEVITT

8/1/23

#2

he has a course of instructions for sale in engineering and when he receives the replies requesting the program and conditions that he forwards with these an application. This application calls for such information as the Citizenship of the Applicant, full name, place of employment, relatives, etc., and that ZEMLIANITZKY chooses from <sup>these</sup> ~~these~~ <sup>those</sup> applicants, working in establishments in which the Soviet Government of Russia desires information and then invites an interview etc., as for instance - An applicant shows by his answers that he is employed in a U.S. Post Office, ZEMLIANITZSKY strings the applicant along and satisfies himself whether or not he can be approached and if so the applicant is told what is desired. All information obtained by these various chiefs is then forwarded to the Paris, France Headquarters which is the central base of receiving and which is camouflaged as an Educational Correspondence School. From Paris the information is communicated to DUSHEN in Berlin in either code or by registered mail. These various branches throughout the world have no connection with any of the political parties and no one branch knows of the whereabouts of the other.

DUSHEN is a Moscow (Checka) I have instructed the Informant to get into communication with ZEMLIANITZSKY and to go through with the thing, hoping to locate the Paris and Berlin Headquarters. DUSHEN was arrested in 1918 by the <sup>Checka's</sup> ~~Checkas~~ in Soviet Russia, but released after he promised to join their Spy System and to gather information for Soviet Russia in the White Army of General Udenich. DUSHEN is known in Berlin as a teacher of American Courses. There is a

J.F.McDEVITT

8/1/23

#3

newspaper in Paris called The Russian Gazette which is exposing DUSHEN'S activities in Europe but of course know nothing of how his agents work in the various <sup>other</sup> countries. A newspaper called "RUS" printed in Bulgaria in their issue of June 22nd gives a short account of DUSHEN.

CONTINUED:

61-3499



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

October 12, 1923.

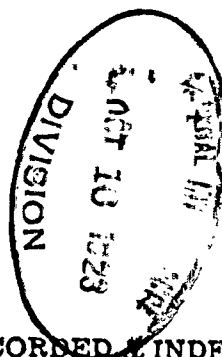
Dear Mr. Burns:

For your strictly confidential information, I enclose  
copy of a report which has been received from a reliable  
source concerning the increase in the activities of the  
State Political Administration (G.P.U.) abroad, as well  
as in Soviet Russia.

Very truly yours,

*Norman Aronson*

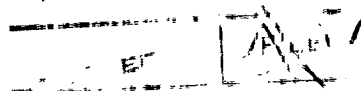
William J. Burns, Esquire,  
Director, Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.



RECORDED & INDEXED

61-3499-8

OCT 12 1923



ACTIVITY OF THE GPU. ✓

1. A circular signed by [redacted] vsky, No. 572 of the 24th of June sent to the foreign GPU [redacted] states as follows:-

The Foreign Sections do [redacted] efficient attention to contact between the emigrés and foreign [redacted] Provocatory work by the emigrés complicates the position, which is fairly difficult already, of the Soviet diplomatic representatives abroad. In particular, through the carelessness of Comrade Domskoi, agents went to France have proved to belong to criminal elements quite unsuited to their work. The punishment meted out to Comrade Domskoi will be increased ten-fold if such carelessness is repeated, and openly provocative elements engaged. Comrade Ashkenasi had the opportunity of introducing agents into the most reactionary organisations in Germany, but missed his chance through lack of decision.

I have to remind you that careless work of this sort will be regarded as criminal negligence.

All departments are hereby instructed to increase their women agents among diplomatic and industrial circles; by means of secret agents to keep foreign intelligence circles informed regarding emigrant organisations of an anti-Soviet character; to employ specially energetic agents among the emigrés as agents-provocateurs, thereby paralysing the work of these organisations; especially to increase secret agents in France, taking all steps to get agents into the reactionary organisations.

It is essential to bear in mind that the apparent increase of strength of nationalist and monarchist organisations is lead to decrease in the number of agents. In regard to such agents leaving Soviet work, especially serious measures must be adopted

2. In connection with the development of monarchist activities in Russia, the GPU has issued a circular, signed [redacted] Chief of the Special Department, dated the 23rd of May, 1923, which [redacted] ions as follows:-



Number of secret agents and former officers to be increased, as also, and particularly, agents among young students; the basis of pay to be increased from 18 gold roubles per month to 24 gold roubles. (Basis of pay is pay issued to the lower employees; supplementary allowances are issued "for services" and "expenses".)

- (b) By the aid of secret agents a general registry is to be made of all employees and also of ordinary citizens ("voluntarily"); this registration is to be checked with the help of the Communist "cells" and, separately, by information of the local departments.

In order to carry out this work the Special Department of the GPU is taking on additional staff; in Moscow the Department is being increased by 32 persons, in the local departments by 6.

- (c) To increase the number of secret agents among the Parish organizations, the clergy, and other groups. The present shortage of agents in these branches is emphasized.
- (d) All frontier special departments are to increase their agents in the villages and strengthen observation over farms.

3. The special departments attached to the staffs of the military districts have recently elaborated a scheme of cross-agents in military units and administrations. These special departments work in contact with the political departments, but have their own agents, whereas the political departments work through the party organizations.

Companies, detachments, hundreds, and batteries possess their own secret agents, but in no case recruited from among the Communists of the unit; one agent suffices for each unit. A second agent carries out the duties of observer. ~~XXXXXX~~ Their information is submitted directly to the special department once a month. The staffs of regiments and units corresponding have 2 - 3 agents; it has been found desirable to have special agents (themselves officers) for observation on the new Red Commanders. The staffs of divisions have their own agents in the departments, etc. The party organizations carry on parallel work, their information being sent directly to the political departments of the divisions.

OFFICE OF  
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE  
Edward J. Brennan

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

TELEPHONE, BARCLAY 8160  
POST OFFICE BOX 241  
CITY HALL STATION

Department of Justice  
Bureau of Investigation  
15 PARK ROW, 14TH FLOOR  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

December 8th, 1923.

11-3499

DIRECTOR,  
Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D.C.

RE: SOVIET SECRET SERVICE AGENTS  
IN UNITED STATES;

Attention Mr. J.E.Hoover.

Dear Sir:-

Reference is made to telephone conversation of December 7th and bureau letter of the same date initialed JEH:LMR regarding Professor Sorokin's statement to the effect that he had seen two members of the Russian Secret Service on the streets of New York.

Professor Sorokin is connected with Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Arrangements have been made Mr. Ralph Easley to communicate with Professor Sorokin and arrange for an interview on the Professor's next visit to New York City, which will probably be on December 11th, 1923.

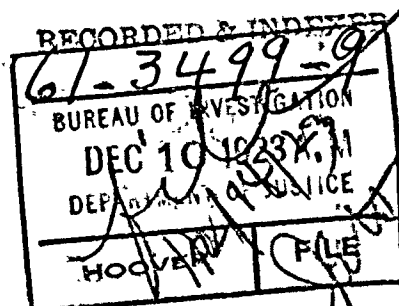
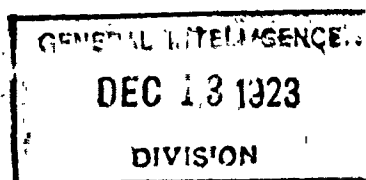
Mrs. Martin Egan, whose husband is connected with the J.P.Morgan office, stated to an Agent of this office that Professor Sorokin did make statements to the effect that he had seen Agents of the Soviet Secret Service in this city.

Very truly yours,

EDWARD J. BRENNAN,  
Special Agent in Charge.

GJS:VD

DEC 22 1923



HN:JTM  
61-3499 -/0

MAR 14 1924

March 10, 1924.

Mr. Walter C. Foster,  
P. O. Box 451,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the report of Agent McDevitt of your office, dated February 26, 1924 and captioned SMUGGLING OF JEWELRY AND SECRET AGENTS INTO THE UNITED STATES.

Information is desired as to whether your office believe it advisable, at this time, to convey the data contained in this report relative to one NINA RIABOFF and her alien smuggling activities to the Immigration Service, or whether the conveying of such information would tend to uncover your confidential informant.

Very truly yours,

  
Director.

RECORDED & INDEXED

MAR 13 1924

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT Philadelphia, PA.

JOURNAL TO BE MADE AT ORIGINATING OFFICE ONLY

REPORT MADE AT: Philadelphia, PA.	DATE WHEN MADE: 2/26/24	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 2/9/24	REPORT MADE BY: J. F. McDEVITT -
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## TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE:

SMUGGLING OF JEWELRY AND SECRET AGENTS : SOVIET-RUSSIAN  
INTO THE UNITED STATES PROPOGANDA -

## FACTS DEVELOPED.

AT PHILADELPHIA:

Refer to my previous reports on this subject. Through a volunteer Confidential Informant, I have learned today that there is living at 5146 Viola Street, West Philadelphia, a man named C. TOMKINS and that he is the "secretary of a "club" of Secret Soviet Police (Cheka) and that there is also a man named REZNAMOFF who is also a member and who is the "head artist"; who was at one time a cheka in Odessa, Russia under General Slascheff noted for having killed burgeois without a trial. REZNAMOFF is a Jew, nice looking it is said; youn, 150 lbs., - In my previous reports I also mentioned that some of these Chekas were entering the U.S. through Cuba. My informant has told me that a MRS. NINA RIABOFF of the Y.W.C.A., 1421 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, whom I found to be their Russian interpreter and her husband recently brought 15 students here from Cuba and that the Soviet Government of Russia paid for their stop cards and that MRS. RIABOFF is or was upon their Pay Roll of the American Red Cross. I had a party meet MRS. RIABOFF and, learned that she and her husband have only been in the U.S. 18 months and MRS. RIABOFF does interpreting for a living. I verified

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

## REFERENCE:

JS: 3-WASH; 2-PHILA.

## COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:

FILE NO.

61-3499-10

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FEB 29 1924

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROUTED TO:

HOOVER

FILE

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE

MAR 3 1924

DIVISION

Phila. 3/10/24

J. F. McDEVITT -

2/9/24

#2

the story that there is a family named TOMKINS living at the Viola Street address. They are evidently Russian-Jewish people. A cover placed upon their mail has developed that the name of the Club is the RUSSIAN PROGRESSIVE CLUB and they correspond with RUSSKY - GOLOS of N.Y. City and that they both attend the U. of Pennsylvania they live at 3932 Pine St., Philadelphia.

CONTINUED:

Department of Justice,  
Bureau of Investigation.

JFMCD:MCS.

P.O. Box 451

Philadelphia, Pa., March 12, 1924.

ATTENTION- MR. HOOVER -2 -

61-3499

Wm. J. Burns, Esq.,  
Director, Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D.C.

<sup>0</sup>  
RE: SMUGGLING OF JEWELRY AND SECRET  
AGENTS INTO THE UNITED STATES

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your letter dated March 10th 1924 initialed JEH:HN:JWM, File 61-3499, in which you ask whether or not it would be proper to report the activities of NINA RIABOFF to the Immigration authorities, would state that it would not be advisable at this time to do so, for the reason that it will uncover our confidential informant and furthermore, we have not been able to secure any definite information.

You will be kept advised as to her activities.

Respectfully,

MAR 21 1924  
RECORDED & INDEXED

*Walter C. Foster*  
WALTER C. FOSTER,  
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE.-  
GENERAL INTELLIGENCE  
MAR 18 1924  
DIVISION

61-3499-11	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
MAR 14 1924 A.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
HOOVER	FILE

MAR 29 1924



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

March 28, 1924.

61-3499

Dear Mr. Burns:

As of possible interest, I beg to enclose herewith a  
copy of a strictly confidential report which has been received  
from a reliable source in Riga, concerning the dispatch of  
Bolshevik agents abroad.

X

Very truly yours,

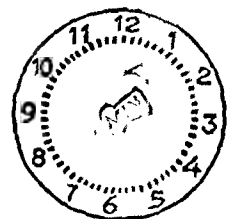
*Norman Armour*

William J. Burns, Esquire,  
Director, Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure.

U-2 *[Signature]*

WM. J. BURNS



MAR 29 1924

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE  
APR 1 1924  
DIVISION

RECORDED & INDEXED APR 3 1924

61-3499-12  
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
MAR 31 1924 A.M.  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
HOOVER  
RICE

DELETED BY: [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

**Communist International.**

**Organization Bureau.**

**December 2, 1923.**

**To the Commissariat for Foreign Affairs,**

**2194**

**Staff Department.**

In view of the request of the G.P.U. to place at its disposal 5 comrades knowing French and German for the purpose of increasing the investigation of anti-communist organizations in Czechoslovakia and Austria, please return us comrades Esther Adolf and Nellin Bruno, who were put at the disposal of the Commissariat for Foreign Affairs on the 10th of September, 1923.

Chief of the Organization I.X.X.I. ....

Secretary .....

As was done last year, a special commission is being sent on a tour of revision of the political missions abroad. Attached to these commissions are 4 agents of the G.P.U.

GURLER, Nikolai,

KAVUS, Ignatiev,

MATUSEVICH, Maria

FRISPOLIT, Vladimir.

One of the above, it is not known which, is going to London, one to Berlin, one to Rome, and the fourth will cover Warsaw, Vienna and Prague.

61-3479-12



NYfile No. R-61-D.

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT New York, N.Y.

JOURNAL TO BE MADE AT ORIGINATING OFFICE ONLY

REPORT MADE AT: New York, N.Y.	DATE WHEN MADE: May 27, 1924	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: May 27, 1924	REPORT MADE BY: Geo. J. Starr.
-----------------------------------	---------------------------------	--	-----------------------------------

TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE:

RE: SOVIET GOVERNMENT - STATE POLITICAL ADMINISTRATION (G.P.U.-Soviet Secret Service)FACTS DEVELOPED: At New York, N.Y.

A letter was received some time ago from [redacted] transmitting some information of a radical nature, but of no particular value other than that he, [redacted], had attended an affair run by the Novy Mir at Webster Hall, this city, on Feb. 22, 1924, where he met ALEXANDER BRAILOWSKY and in the course of his conversation with BRAILOWSKY, he was informed of the work done by the State Political Administration.

[redacted] was evidently unable to obtain any information as to the B.P.U. Agents in the U.S., but he was informed by BRAILOWSKY that one of the officials in charge in Russia is named UNSCHLICHT, and the man in charge of the Secret Service Bureau of the G.P.U. is named KRAINITZKY.

The above information is not new as similar information has appeared elsewhere from time to time.

Unless otherwise instructed, no attempt will be made to cultivate

[redacted] as he does not appear to have any information of value to the Bureau.

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

FILE NO. 61-3499-13		JUN 4 1924	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION MAY 28 1924		GENERAL INTELLIGENCE	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE		JUN 28 1924	
ROUTED TO: HOOVER		DIVISION	

REFERENCE:

COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:

Washington 2; New York 2;

GJS:VD

4  
ADDRESS REPLY TO  
DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
AND REFER TO  
INITIALS AND NUMBER

TFB:EV

# Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C.

October 17, 1924.

MEMORANDUM TO MR. HOOVER

61-3499

The attached letter from the State Department forwards a report received by the Department of State confidentially. It was obtained in Berlin by the correspondent of the Chicago TRIBUNE in that city and forwarded to his newspaper in Chicago but was not published.

The section of this report which relates to the alleged exposure of the Russian Cheka organization in America, which I have marked with a clip, I suggest that you look over, at least the opening page or two.

The General Kommissaroff mentioned as having been appointed Assistant to the head of the Cheka organization in this country you will remember as the man reported by [ ] as a probable Soviet agent here. [ ] was for a time quite close to Kommissaroff, and the latter was furnished some funds by [ ]. This is the man whom [ ] stated he could possibly secure considerable information from which might be of interest to the State Department, but that it would cost quite a bit of money to maintain the connection. At that time you directed me to call the matter to the attention of Mr. Lane and ask if the State Department was sufficiently interested to justify the necessary expenditure of funds. Mr. Lane stated that he did not so consider it, and the New York office was advised to that effect.

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If the data in the attached report is at all reliable it may be worth while to instruct [ ] to establish a closer contact with General Kommissaroff, and maintain the relation for a time at least.

Respectfully,

*[Signature]*  
RECORDED & INDEXED

61-3499-14	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
OCT 25 1924 P.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
Division 1	FILE

*[Signature]*  
OCT 28 1924

OFFICE OF  
THE UNDERSECRETARY



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

September 18, 1924.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I enclose herewith a report received by the Department confidentially, regarding Soviet activities in the United States, which I believe you will find to be of considerable interest and value. The report was obtained in Berlin by Seldes, the correspondent of the Chicago "Tribune" in that city, and forwarded by him to his newspaper in Chicago. Mr. Robert McCormick, however, one of the owners of the paper, decided that it would be impolitic to publish this material but felt that it might be of interest to this Government.

Very truly yours,

*Arthur Bliss Lane*

J. E. Hoover, Esquire,  
Acting Director, Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure.

*10-17-24  
B-2*

*Memo. to Mr. Hoover  
10-17-24  
JEB*

*upt. Forwarded  
to Mr. Hoover  
10/24/24*

RECORDED & INDEXED	
349914	
OCT 25 1924 P.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
Division 2	FILE

*OCT 2*

TPB:JWM

October 24, 1924.

Mr. E. J. Brennan,  
P. O. Box 241,  
City Hall Station,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

I am forwarding herewith a report received by the State Department, confidentially, regarding Soviet activities in the United States, this report being forwarded to me by the State Department for my confidential information. I am advised that the report was obtained in Berlin by Seldes, the correspondent of the Chicago "Tribune" in that city, and forwarded by him to his newspaper in Chicago. Mr. Robert McCormick, however, one of the owners of the paper, decided that it would be impolitic to publish this material, but felt that it might be of interest to the government. The report, which is rather long, I am forwarding for your information. After it has been perused, kindly return it to the Bureau to be placed in the files.

Your particular attention is called to the mention made in the report, of General Komisaroff, upon whom Agent Starr and [ ] have both submitted a number of reports. I will be glad to have from you a comment upon the reference to General Komisaroff, and the organization of Soviet Espionage activities in the United States.

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Very truly yours,

Acting Director.

encl.  
46776

RECORDED &amp; INDEXED

61-3499-15

INVESTIGATION

OCT 26 1924

EX-100

FILE

MAILED

OCT 27 1924

OFFICE OF  
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE  
EDWARD J. BRENNAN

Department of Justice  
Bureau of Investigation  
15 PARK ROW, 14TH FLOOR  
NEW YORK, N.Y.

TELEPHONE BARCLAY 5100  
POST OFFICE BOX 241  
CITY HALL STATION



October 31, 1924.

61-3499

DIRECTOR,  
Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

ATTENTION TWO

Re: UNION OF SOCIALIST SOVIET REPUBLICS.  
Alleged Secret Service Organization  
in U.S.

Dear Sir:-

Receipt of bureau letter of October 24, 1924, initialed TFB;JWM, transmitting a confidential report obtained by the State Department from the Chicago Tribune, is acknowledged.

The references to HOORGIN and KOMMISSAROV in that report have been noted, as has also your request that a comment on this particular part of the report be prepared. It is hoped that some additional information regarding KOMMISSAROV will be obtained in the near future and the desired comment will then be prepared.

Very truly yours,

*Edward J. Brennan*  
EDWARD J. BRENNAN,  
Special Agent in Charge.

GJS:VD

NOV 1 3 1924  
RECORDED & INDEXED

61-3499-16	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
NOV 1 1924 A.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
Division 2	FILE

OFFICE OF  
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE  
EDWARD J. BRENNAN

# Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation  
15 PARK ROW, 14TH FLOOR  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

TELEPHONE BARCLAY 3400  
POST OFFICE BOX 241  
CITY HALL STATION

November 8, 1924

DIRECTOR,  
Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

ATTENTION TWO

THE G.P.U. ORGANIZATION IN AMERICA

Dear Sir:-

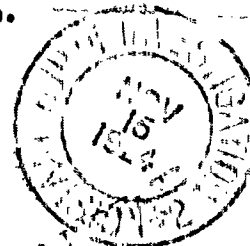
Reference is made to bureau letter initialed TFB:JWM, dated October 24, 1924, with which was transmitted enclosure #46776, namely State Department report on the Russian Secret Service, submitted by Mr. McCormick of the Chicago Tribune.

I am submitting herewith a short comment on HOORGIN and KOMMISSAROV as requested in the last paragraph of the bureau letter, and am returning the State Department report referred to.

Very truly yours,

*Edward J. Brennan*  
EDWARD J. BRENNAN,  
Special Agent in Charge.

GJS:VD  
(Enclosure)



DEC 1 2 1924

61-3499-11	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
NOV 13 1924 P.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
Division 2	FILE

THE G.P.U. ORGANIZATION IN AMERICA

Reference is made to State Department report on the organization of the Soviet Secret Service, which was received from Mr. Robert McCormick of the Chicago Tribune. This report was transmitted to this office as enclosure No. 46776 with bureau letter of October 24, 1924 initialed TFB/JWM.

Commenting on this report, particularly as to the organization of the work in America, I would state that ~~CHURGIN~~ referred to is undoubtedly ~~ISAIAH HOORGIN~~. The report states that he arrived in Berlin in May, 1923 enroute to the United States for the purpose of organizing a secret division of the CHEKA in America, under the guise of a semi-official Soviet Trade Mission.

HOORGIN arrived in the United States about June 1, 1923. He came here officially as Director of the German Russian Transportation Company DERUTRA, for the purpose of assisting in organizing or reorganizing the New York office of that company. This appears to be quite correct as I have been informed by a reliable informant connected with DERUTRA that HOORGIN is an official in that company. Whether his position is held by him as a result of personal interest in DERUTRA or whether he holds that position merely as a representative of the Soviet Government on the Board of Directors has not been established, but it would seem quite probable that the latter is the correct supposition. As to the alleged guise of a semi-official Soviet Trade Mission, it might be stated that this is somewhat exaggerated. He did not so represent himself, altho he did take a very active part in the affairs of Centrosoyus and other associated organizations, eventually forming one large organization to direct the activities of the others, known as AMTORG or the American Trading Corporation.

The State Department report further states that because of his lack of experience in certain work HOORGIN was given an assistant in the person of the notorious General ~~KOMMISSAROV~~.

HOORGIN, as stated above, arrived in this country about June 1, 1923. KOMMISSAROV received a visa from the Consul General at Havana on Feb. 28, 1924, and arrived here presumably some time in March of this year.

There seems to be no doubt that KOMMISSAROV was engaged in secret work for the Soviet Government in various parts of Europe. This information comes from various sources including press dispatches.

From a confidential informant [ ] it was learned that HOORGIN stated that he was interested in all matters having any bearing on Russia and that he had been commissioned by the Soviet Government to learn just what is going on. Among other things he stated that the movement among the Senators for recognition of the Soviet Russian Government had cost Russia a lot of money.

Further information from this same source indicates that HOORGIN was possibly acting as an investigator for the Soviet Government. During June 1923 he called upon the Workers Party for a report on the activities of the previous year, which was submitted to him after he had presented a mandate which <sup>was</sup> satisfactory to ~~ABRAM JAKIRA~~. He is also reported to have spent some time examining the documents and books of the All Russian Jewish Public Relief Committee. He also investigated the controversy between the Party and the Central Bureau of the S.T.A.S.R.

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In October 1923, Informant [ ] reported among other things that HOORGIN was engaged in preparing a "black list" of all prominent persons both Russians and others who were active in opposing the Soviet Government. Also that HOORGIN visited Washington and interviewed various Senators with reference to the question of recognition of Soviet Russia. The name of KOMMISSAROV did not come up at any time in connection with HOORGIN.

KOMMISSAROV is well known to a number of Russians in this city, particularly to a number of former officers of the Russian Gendarme Corps. It is



the opinion of practically all of these officers that KOMMISSAROV is an Agent or spy for the Soviet Government. This opinion is based on the allegation that he was an Agent for the Soviet Government in the Balkans and elsewhere in Europe. However, none of these officers have any positive proof of any espionage activities on the part of KOMMISSAROV in this country. It is interesting to note, however, that KOMMISSAROV did not communicate with any of these officers, his former associates, upon his arrival in this country, altho this would have been the natural thing for him to have done, if he were not particularly anxious to avoid being recognized.

In a conversation with Informant [ ] during June 1924, KOMMISSAROV stated that he had been unable to establish his connections with the G.P.U. since his arrival here and that he was being offered a large sum of money for writing certain articles on Russia. This transaction was being handled thru HERMAN BERNSTEIN (a series of articles by KOMMISSAROV are now being published weekly in the Sunday edition of the New York Times) These articles are derogatory to the former Tsarist Government and to the officials of that Government. They might be considered as being propaganda in favor of Communism in that they do condemn the Monarchy.)

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At the time of this conversation with our informant KOMMISSAROV did not make a particularly good impression in that he contradicted himself several times and made statements as to conditions which would hardly be expected to exist if he were really an Agent of the G.P.U. At one time KOMMISSAROV stated to this informant that his work in the G.P.U. was under a man named ~~BERZIN~~, who is Chief of the Intelligence Division and Foreign Information Division of the G.P.U. Among other things he mentioned that if he engaged in the work which he expected to engage in in this country, it would become necessary for him to join all the various Monarchist organizations. At KOMMISSAROV's suggestion Informant [ ] wrote a letter to BERZIN asking that KOMMISSAROV's status be defined. No further information has been received, however, regarding him.

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With reference to the outline of the work contemplated by the G.P.U. organization in America, it would appear to be so elaborate as to require an enormous organization to collect, evaluate and transmit the information called for. The references in the Military Section to the reserve troops and to mobilization of troops, paragraph 7, page 5, Chapter 5, would indicate that this might be a plan for the organization of a G.P.U. Section to be applied to any country, which had since been altered to apply to America, as the expressions used, particularly in paragraph referred to would seem to indicate the existence of a Conscript Army at the present time, which of course, would not be true of the United States.

If all the various types and classes of Agents referred to in this report are employed, then the Soviet Secret Service in this country would be so large as to be unwieldy and liable to be quickly exposed.

Neither this office nor informants reporting to the office have any information regarding ZONESTEIN alias BORZATI referred to on pages 8 and 9 of the State Department report.

It is possible that further information regarding KOMMISSAROV will be brought to the attention of this office in the near future and if so it will be promptly reported to Washington.

I questioned Mr. White of ~~DERUTRA~~ as to the work performed by HOORGIN while he was in this country and Mr. White stated that HOORGIN devoted practically all of his time to commercial matters in so far as Mr. White knows. HOORGIN did not make his headquarters at the DERUTRA office except in the early part of his sojourn in this country. During the latter part of his visit here he spent most of his time in the office of AMTORG.

*George J. Starr*  
George J. Starr  
Special Agent

Nov. 7, 1924

COPY BWE

I received the articles on the "Political Police in Soviet Russia" from a very reliable source. They have been written by a man who during 2-1/2 years was in the services of the Secret Police as their "agent-provocateur".

But the chiefs of the Soviet Police proved to be poor psychologists. Being convinced that the man belonged to them body and soul and that he would not dare to disclose their secrets, they allowed him to go abroad. However, as soon as this man discovered that he no longer was within reach of the Soviet arm his conscience began to torture him. He then went to a well-known Russian Socialist and made his confession.

The author's sincerity and trustworthiness are beyond any doubt and anyone reading these articles will surely be convinced of that. As regards myself, I have not added anything to the author's writing. I merely translated these articles into English and amended them in order to make them clearer and more comprehensible to the English reader.

The author's intimate knowledge of what is going on beyond the official Soviet curtain makes it possible for him to give a most vivid description of the methods which the present rulers of Russia employ in order to maintain their hold on the unhappy country. The Tsar's sinister "okhrana" is left far behind by its Bolshevik

-2-

successor with regard to devilish cruelty and inhuman immorality.

If these articles could help the public to realize how dangerous Bolshevism is to everything that is dear and holy to a human being I should consider their publication fully justified.

A. BAIZALOFF ✓

London, August, 1924.

## The POLITICAL POLICE in SOVIET RUSSIA.

### I. Organisation.

The importance of the Political Police is very great in the Soviet system. ✓ Dzerjinsky - the founder and chief of the police called it the "hub" and "back-bone" of Proletarian Dictatorship, and Lenin himself repeatedly declared that every Communist must be a good "tchekist".

The legal position of the political police is not quite clear and any attempt to define it in accordance with legislative acts would be futile. But whenever one wants to become acquainted with the state organisation of the Union of S.S.R. one invariably finds that it is not necessary to know its constitution; on the other hand it is essential to know the Government's methods as put in practice. Thus in order to become acquainted with the Police organisation it will be necessary to study their special methods.

In the spring of 1922 when the notorious Tcheka was transformed into the G.P.U. (State Political Department) its official dependence on the People's Commissariat for Home Affairs was confirmed by a decree. Later with the declaration of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (Union of S.S.R.) the G.P.U. was reorganised into the United State Political Department. However, as the Soviet Union does not possess a Central Commissariat for Home Affairs, even the

-2-

official subordination of the G.P.U. to this institution is nullified, and the Police forms, so to speak, an entirely independent Commissariat. But this is not all. As a matter of fact the Department of the Political Police is in the hands of the Central Committee of the Russian Communist party (C.C.R.C.P.), it carries out the orders of this Committee and is totally independent on the "organ of the supreme power" i.e. the Central Executive Committee of the Union of S.S.R. and the Council of the Peoples Commissars. The official Soviet jurists do not even try to hide this fact. Thus Prof. Reisner in his book entitled "The Bourgeois State and the Union of S. S. R. " in defining the meaning of the Central Committee of the R. C. P. refers to it as the "bearer of the Supreme Power of the state" and suggests to have it ratified in the constitution.

During my 2-1/2 years' work in the Teheka I could witness from personal experience and conversations with various high officials of the Department, the immediate dependence of the political police on the Central Committee of the Communist Party. By order of this Committee the Teheka brought about the trial of the members of the Central Committee of the Socialist Revolutionary Party and used evidence supplied by one of their agents, namely Semenoff-Vassilieff. By permission and with the help of the Central Committee a conference of the "ex-members of the Socialist-

-3-

Revolutionary Party" was called together in the spring of 1923 and it was then decided to "dissolve the Party". This conference was composed partly of the agents of the O. G. P. U. and partly of members of the R. C. P. who had formerly belonged to the S. R. Party.

At present a conference of the "ex-members of the Russian Social-Democratic Labour Party" is being prepared under the directions of the Chief of the 2nd Division of the O. G. P. U. - Konhevnikoff, but as the Central Committee of the Communist Party have not yet given their opinion on the matter the conference is being postponed. The records of these two bodies will in future confirm to a great extent the immediate connection between the State Political Department and the Central Committee of the Communist Party.

In certain ways the O. G. P. U. stands above the official Government. Quite a number of members of the Government - high officials, diplomats, prominent Soviet Co-operators and others, - are secret agents of the Political Police. The following prominent people, with whom I came in contact during my work in the Department, are in the pay of the Tcheka:- members of the Praesidium of the All-Russian Soviet Executive Committee and the Peoples' Commissar for Agriculture - Alexander P. Smirnoff; Preobrajensky - in 1921-1922 when he was Chairman of the Chief Committee for Technical Education; member of the Board

Chick  
Bate

Mr. Hader  
Chick  
Bate

-4-

of the Centrosyus and chairman of the Board of the All-Russian Co-operative Bank - Dimitri S. Golenistcheff-Kutusoff, and others. According to a statement made to me by the chief of the 3rd Division of the O. G. P. U. - Ilia P. Reshetoff - there are secret agents of this type in every more or less important Soviet Institution. With their help the Political Police make use of the entire machinery of these institutions. Thus it is they who supply the Tcheka with official papers and seals, provide employment for the secret informers of the O. G. P. U. in the various establishments, despatch these informers on their secret missions, finance them, etc.

The diplomatic corps abroad helps the Tcheka in the same way. The following high officials living abroad are connected with the O. G. P. U.:- the secretary of the Consular Department of the Soviet Legation in Germany - Sidoyin; the secretary of the Legation of the Union of the S. S. R. in Czecho-Slovakia - Beletzky, and also the secretary of the Consular Department of the same Legation - Donbovsky. However, one must not think that the official representatives - the "ambassadors" - are innocent as regards the work of the Tcheka. When in February of 1923 Donbovsky could not satisfy some of my requests I was received by Iuriev, who at the time was Representative of the S. S. R. in Prague. Later Donbovsky advised me to apply to the Soviet Representative in Berlin - Preobrajensky - who, he said,



-5-

"had greater resources at his disposal". The Tcheka equally utilizes the various Soviet Legations. I myself sent reports to my chiefs - Head of the Secret Division - Deribda, and Head of the 3rd Division - Reshetoff - in the diplomatic valises of the Berlin and Prague Legations. How far the co-operation between the Soviet Diplomatic Corps and the O. G. P. U. goes can be seen from the fact that the Legation in Berlin has given up three rooms (nos. 57-59) on their premises Unter den Linden, 17, to Lobanoff, the chief of the Political Intelligence and Espionage Bureau of Western Europe, for his headquarters. Besides there are a number of flats in Berlin kept by officials from the Legation where the agents meet on their secret missions. One of these flats, in Aachener Strasse 40-II, (Tel. Pfalzburg 6171), is kept by the Secretary of the Consulate in Berlin - Mr. Sidorin.

The Political Police is unhindered in the use of the whole of the official Soviet Machinery both in the country itself and abroad. During the 6 years of the Soviet Government's existence The Soviet State Control (Peoples' Commissariat of Workers' and Peasants' Inspection) has never yet investigated the affairs of the O. G. P. U. This Department is not subject either to laws or restrictions, and this, I think, will be sufficiently proved by the following chapters.

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-6-

## II. The MILITARY FORCES of the O. G. P. U.

The O. G. P. U. has its own army numbering about 70,000 men and forming the so-called "Detachments of Special Commission". Their chief object is the suppression of internal uprisings and revolts. The army is composed of all arms - infantry, cavalry, machine guns, armoured cars, field artillery etc. The detachments have their own staff and their headquarters are in Malaya Lubianka, 2, Moscow, just opposite the O. G. P. U. ), and are totally independent of the General Staff of the Red Army, but they are in immediate subordination to the Chief of the O. G. P. U. Compared with the rest of the Red Army the soldiers belonging to these detachments are in a privileged position - they are better fed, better clothed and better paid.

Besides this regular army the Tcheka has under its command the armed External Police or the so-called "Militia", and also the armed detachments of Communists. The Communist Part is in reality an armed band as each Communist must belong to his Party Committee Detachment. These Detachments again form brigades with their own staffs.

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III. FINANCES OF THE O. G. P. U.

The financial possibilities of the O. G. P. U. are very extensive, but the amounts assigned to this department by the Soviet Treasury are kept in strictest secrecy. Thus the Secret Division of the O. G. P. U., in which I worked, alone spent tens of thousands of gold roubles and dollars for the upkeep of its agencies abroad. It is impossible to trace the expenditures of the O. G. P. U. as they are not included in the budget. Besides such general and secret assignments all the Soviet Institutions and even the Co-operative Organisations have to provide means for the O. G. P. U. During my secret missions to Uralsk, Saratov and the Crimea I was furnished with money by the Chief of the Peoples' Commissariat for Food - Brukhanoff, and also by the chairman of the All-Russian Co-operative Bank - D. Golenistcheff - Kutusoff, who gave me several thousands of gold roubles.

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IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE O. G. P. U. MACHINERY.

The O. G. P. U. is one of largest institutions in Soviet Russia. In Moscow alone it occupies several blocks of buildings in the centre, whereas in the provinces the best buildings, sometime even whole blocks, belong to the O. G. P. U. In every provincial city there is a provincial Sub-Department wholly independent on the local authorities, and in every country, city there is a Plenipotentiary of the provincial Sub-Department. At every railway-station, down to the smallest river and sea-ports there are branch offices of this institution. All these large and small offices are the secret agency's cobwebs which cover the entire country in a fine net.

Below I give the following main divisions of the O. G. P. U.; - secret, foreign, transport, economic and extra (for the Red Army). The Transport Division looks after the railways, the Economic - fights the "economic counter-revolution", the Extra - is engaged on the suppression of counter-revolution in the Red Army and is in close contact with the Intelligence Bureau of the Red Army Staff. The Foreign Division sees to the safety on the frontiers and in all the agencies abroad. The net of these agencies spreading over Western Europe is extremely fine. At all the Soviet Missions the O. G. P. U. has its own representatives. The Headquarters of the Foreign Division are in Berlin and at their head stands Lobanoff. This

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Division is also in contact with the Intelligence Bureau of the Red Army Staff and collects, together with the latter, all information of military importance.

The Foreign Division further manufactures faked passports and visas to different countries for the use of the O. G. P. U. 's agents and of the III-rd International. Thus in November of 1922 I obtained one of these faked passports through Reshetoff - Chief of the 3-rd Division. Fakes visas and passports are equally manufactured by the Berlin Agency but these are now used with the utmost caution. In January 1923 Lobanoff himself told me to make use of such a passport with great care as there had been cases when agents travelling with these passports had been caught.

The most important and dominating role, however, belongs to the Secret Division, which carries on a fierce war against all revolutionary movements at home. It has in its hands a vast net of secret agencies spreading all over the country not missing a single village. For this work the Secret Division is endowed with rights which it uses freely and it employs the whole of the machinery of the omnipotent and omnipresent O. G. P. U.

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POLITICAL POLICE IN SOVIET RUSSIA.The Secret Agencies. Agents-Provocateurs.

The Secret Division of O.G.P.U. is divided into five Sub-Departments. No. 1 - deals with the general administration; No. 2 - fights the activities of the Soc. Dem. Party; No. 3 - ditto with regard to the Soc-Rev. Party. No. 4 - ditto with regard to parties of the Right block (Liberals, Monarchists, etc.), and No. 5 - is engaged on "Suppressing counter-revolution" amongst the clergy.

At the head of each sub-department stands a chief with his several assistants and a staff of interrogating magistrates (sledovateli). The work of these sub-departments consists mainly in the following:-

- 1) preparation of reports on information collected by ordinary spies;
- 2) preparation of reports collected by secret agents and agents-provocateurs;
- 3) questioning of prisoners and suspects.

It is necessary to point here that besides the ordinary "sledovatels" there are a number of special officials whose business it is to investigate "extraordinary affairs" and who are in direct subordination to the O.G.P.U.

The "sledovatels" of the Sub-Departments attend to current affairs submitted to them by the secret agents. Often at the end of an enquiry the "sledovatel" in summing up also gives his opinion as to the punishment.

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and this resolution, signed by the Chief of the Secret Division, takes the place of a legal verdict. In this way several prominent "counter-revolutionists", as for instance Vladimir Volsky - Chairman of the Samar Committee of members of the Constituent Assembly, and Tugarin - member of the Central Bureau of the Minority P. S. R., were exiled to the Solovetsky Isles (in the White Sea), which, by the way, are getting pretty full with such people now. At the same time it is a wellknown fact that life at "Solovki" is infinitely more ghastly than penal servitude in the Siberian prisons and at Sakhalin in Tsarist times. There exists a decree on the strength of which the O. G. P. U. are not allowed to exile people or even to keep them under arrest for a period exceeding 2 months unless they have the respective permission from the Central Soviet Executive Committee. When this decree was first published I pointed out to Koshevnikov (then Chief of the 3rd and now of the 2nd Sub-Department) its undesirability from the Police's point of view. However, he replied that this decree was merely a formality and that if necessary these "permissions" could be obtained "wholesale". In the Tochka a "collegiate verdict" was a fiction, whereas in the O. G. P. U. it does not even exist formally. Although capital punishment is not abolished it is now being applied only to "bandits" (but evidently anybody who does not agree with the Communist

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principles now becomes a "bandit"). In the beginning of 1923, when the decree "abolishing" capital punishment in the administrative court was still in force an agent-provocateur of the O. G. P. U. - Hazaroff and a warder of the "Internal" prison of the same Department were shot. Above it must be made clear that the O. G. P. U. is not restricted by any laws whatever, and here is another example of this fact. According to the existing law all convicts come under the management of the Department of Prisons of the Peoples' Commissariat of Justice. As an exception to this rule, however, the members of the Central Committee of the P. S. R., convicted by the Supreme Tribunal, were, for some reason, kept during more than a year in a prison of the O. G. P. U., and even up to the present moment they are under a special guard controlled by the 3rd- Sub-Department of the Secret Division.

The "Slidovatels" are by no means the most important functionaries of the Sub-Departments, and the secret agents play a far more important role. These secret agent or "informers" of the O. G. P. U. are to be found everywhere: amongst the Army, the "intelligentsia", the students, clergy and, in fact, in all the Soviet Institutions, as well as in all the Political Parties which are in opposition to the Communist Party, and even in this party itself. In their reports these agents "illuminate" the state of mind of those circles in which they live



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and work. The "secret agencies" are run on special conspirative lines. Thus the meetings of the "collaborators" take place in special houses and flats kept by the agents of the O. G. P. U. and who live there under false names. These places of secret meetings may be found everywhere. One of them was at the residence of Patriarch Tikhon and was kept by an agent of the 3rd Sub-Department - Kirilloff who occupied it under the false name of Beloff and gave himself away for an employee of the Peoples' Commissariat for Food. The respective faked passports were supplied by A. P. Smirnoff, then Vice Commissar for Food.

The reports submitted by the agents are compared with information obtained from other sources after which the originals are destroyed. Even the "sliedovatels" do not know from what sources the information given to them is compiled. Thus in March 1922 a "sliedovatel" of the 3rd Sub-Department Mrs. Brande charged me with being a member of the Central Bureau of the Minority P. S. F, and she did not know that the respective evidence was supplied by myself. All the agents are known under nicknames which figure in the files of the O. G. P. U. The agent's salaries depend on the usefulness of the information they supply. Some agents draw about 250 gold roubles a month (which is considered a very good remuneration in Soviet Russia), and in addition

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they enjoy certain privileges which now count for a good deal.

The work of the O. G. P. U. is not limited to collecting "secret information", or, as they put it "internal illumination", it has greatly developed the system of provocation. The O. G. P. U. agents are particularly fond of "setting traps"; thus they call a meeting of a party opposed to the Soviet Regime and then, in the middle of a debate, an armed detachment of Tchekists suddenly arrives and arrests all those who are present. Here is an example. In the spring of 1922 a certain Matrinchuk, who pretended to be an anarchist, organised in Vologda a Peasants' Union. At one of the Committee Meetings of this Union he put forward the proposal to organise an armed revolt against the Soviets. Luckily a member of the Central Bureau of the P. S. R. had equally been invited to this Meeting and this man, by the name of Penkratoff, succeeding in dissuading the Committee from this futile adventure. The next day Penkratoff was arrested and soon after it was found out that Matrinchuk was an official agent of the O. G. P. U.

For combatting parties hostile to the Communist regime the O. G. P. U. has recently devised a very ingenious method consisting in the following: the secret agents who work in these parties must gain the members' confidence in order to be entrusted with party leadership. Sometimes the O. G. P. U.

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makes things easier for the agents by arresting and exiling their likely opponents. Sometimes also the opposition groups are entirely composed of the O. G. P. U. secret agents. Thus in 1921 there was organized in Uralsk a District Group of members of the Minority Party of S. - R. which consisted solely of agents of the O. G. P. U. (then Tcheka). Its chief members were Albanoff, Podiatshoff and Skripchenko. Later again in summer of 1922, on the initiative of the Chief of the Secret Division Samsonoff a group of Moscow "workmen" secret agents of the O. G. P. U. tried to get me into the Central Bureau of S. - R. Party.. For some reason my nomination was at the time rejected but in the spring of 1923 another agent provocateur - Peter A. Seletsky - was actually elected into the Central Bureau of the P. S. R. His draft of the resolution on the Party's attitude to the Delegation abroad was written by the Chief of the 3rd Sub-Department I. E. Reshetoff. In May 1923 this same Seletsky acted as delegate of the S. R. Party at the Socialist Congress in Hamburg. In the autumn of 1923 I was instructed to organize a District Conference of the S. R. P. in Saratov. Besides myself two other agents - provocateurs - Souvarkin and Jacob Skripchenko - were to take part at the conference, and Skripchenko had to be elected into the Party District Bureau.

The working program of the Secret Division of the O. G. P. U. further includes espionage in the

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Communist Party. Of late the "internal illumination" amongst the Communists has greatly increased, especially since opposition to the Central Committee of the Communist Party has made itself felt and an illegal group of "Labour Truth" has been organised. Here are a few typical examples.

In 1921 there existed in Ural'sk a group of Communists under the leadership of a certain S. A. Cherny, which carried on anarchist propaganda. This became known to a Communist Vassillieff - secret agent of the O. G. P. U. He joined the group, took active part in it and obtained seals of different Soviet Institutions and forged signatures. When he had learnt all he could, he betrayed the group and in March of 1921 all its members were arrested.

In May 1923 the Chief of the 3rd Sub-Department pointed out to me certain A. Sukhanoff, a workman, who attended the meetings of the Opposition Group of the Communist Party, held in the factory of the Trust of Applied Mechanics, and recommended me to join this group. Through Sukhanoff I obtained an invitation to attend the meetings but owing to other business on hand I could not make use of these invitations and passed them on to another secret agent of the O. G. P. U. In this group, to which amongst others belonged a prominent official of the Trade Union Movement, was arrested a member of the Communist Party - Medvedeff - and accused by the O. G. P. U. of being a "Polish Spy".

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Forgery is the weapon which is often employed by the O. G. P. U. in the staging of trials. Thus in winter of 1922 quite a number of Protocols (Minutes) of the Minority Party S. R. were manufactured by a secret agent Podiatcheff by order of Zubkoff, chief of the Secret Division of the Uralsk District Tcheka.

The O. G. P. U. by no means satisfies itself with forging single documents, it often fakes entire movement with its agents as partisans. Thus in June - July 1922 I was ordered by the Vice-Chief of the 3rd Sub-Department Kuzmin to organize a meeting of ex-members of the P. S. R. in order to dissolve the party. However, I was unable to carry out this instruction as I had to attend to other business, but the O. G. P. U. found others who took on this job, for instance Morgenstern in Moscow and Hollender in Ufa. At the present moment exactly the same thing is happening with regard to the Russian Social-Democratic Labour Party under the directions of Mozhevnikoff. By his order, in autumn of 1923, an agent of the O. G. P. U. Plakhoff looked in the Printing Office of Sitin in Moscow for "ex-Mensheviks" who could take part in the conference which was to dissolve the R. S. D. Party.

The number of Secret agents at the disposal of the O. G. P. U. cannot be estimated, but here is an example; in the spring of 1921 at the All-Russian

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Conference of the Minority Party of S-R. there were 8 delegates of whom 5 were agents of the O. G. P. U. Besides while on my secret missions through Russia I met secret agents of the Local Departments of the O. G. P. U. practically in every town. Some of them I have already named, but here are two more: at Simferopol there was an ex-member of the Constituent Assembly Vassiliy T. Bakuta, and at Ufa a certain Vadkevitch. Besides these there are many others.

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## THE CHEKA ORGANIZATION IN AMERICA

An exposure of the Russian political espionage system in the United States, written at the risk of his life by a member of the Executive Committee of the Extraordinary Commission (Va-Che-Ka), the espionage and murder organization of the Soviet System (Kharkoff), who fled to Germany and who is now engaged in exposing the Cheka work throughout Europe and America;

Michael G. Soumarokoff.

(Editor's Note: Soumarokoff is personally known to the Berlin correspondent of the C T F N S. Before accepting the following exposure several hundred Cheka documents, letters from chiefs, publications of the secret archives, were inspected and read by a Russian interpreter and expert. Nine tenths of the material in question concerned the communist propaganda in Europe, chiefly underground work in Poland, Rumania and Germany, the most fertile field of the Third Internationale Revolutionary propaganda. Chekan books of instructions to spies and agents in the Polish armies and in Bessarabia occupied by Rumania and a complete system of espionage work to bring about a German communist revolution are among Soumarokoff's possessions. The parts of the documents relating to America are herewith summarized.

## THE CHEKA ORGANIZATION IN AMERICA.

BY MICHAEL G. SOUMAROKOFF member executive committee of the  
Cheka, Kharkoff, Russia.

Having found a secure basis of operations under the protection of the Soviet Embassy in Berlin, the All-Russian Extraordinary Commission (rechristened recently as G.P.U.) has now spread its espionage activity over all the countries of the Big and Little Entente. Commanding a huge staff of officials in Berlin, the Extraordinary Commission has recently decided to utilize a portion of this staff in the establishment of new secret divisions abroad, including the United States.

In May, 1923, there arrived in Berlin enroute to the United States the former Soviet Envoy in Warsaw Churgin, entrusted with the task of organizing a secret division of the Tcheka in America, under the guise of a semiofficial Soviet Trade Mission. It would not be without interest to mention a few biographical characteristics of the personality of this Churgin. As already stated, he occupied at one time the post of Soviet Envoy in Warsaw, where he attracted wide attention by his riotous living, his affairs with women and his gambling on a colossal scale, in the course of which he lost tremendous sums of money.

Having thus compromised himself in Warsaw by this conduct he began making frequent trips to Zoppot where he continued his gambling at roulette.

The books of the Soviet Trade Delegation in Warsaw contain to this very day a secret account (where are carried the personal accounts of high soviet dignitaries).



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A column marked "Personal Account of Comrade Churgin" contains the record of scores of millions of Polish marks lost by him in Zoppot, money belonging to the Russian people. When even expert accountants proved unable to liquidate this personal account Mr. Churgin, after receiving a diplomatic leave of absence and an extra supply of money befitting a Soviet dignitary, for "Medical expenses" and the "adjustment of his personal affairs", departed for Moscow, where he succeeded in obtaining a commission abroad. He was appointed semiofficial Trade Representative in the United States, with headquarters in New York. His real task however was to establish a secret American division of the Toheka.

Because of his lack of experience in this kind of work Churgin was given an assistant in the person of the notorious General Kommisaroff, who won his spurs as a secret service agent in the Old Czarist Oohrana.

Prior to his departure for the United States, General Kommisaroff was active as the Toheka representative in Berlin with headquarters in the Berlin Embassy. He is credited with being the real organizer of the Toheka in Germany.

With instructions to perform a similar work in the United States, Kommisaroff left Berlin for New York July 19, 1923. He has been active in New York ever since. Churgin acts as the curtain behind which proceeds the work of Kommisaroff and his staff of agents.

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Following is a list of instructions given Churgin in Berlin:

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF A SECRET DIPLOMATIC AGENCY:

Under this heading the following information is to be obtained:

1. Secret clauses of foreign treaties concluded by the United States
2. The secret purposes of representatives of foreign countries or of special diplomatic representatives in the United States
3. The organization, proceedings and results of private diplomatic meetings
4. Points of differences between the United States and Europe
5. The collective actions of respective Entente countries and of the United States in the form of diplomatic notes and the obtaining of these notes prior to their publication
6. Information on any points which may rouse differences of opinion within the state department itself and on points of agreement on which bears the character of a temporary compromise.
7. Secret instructions given to American diplomatists on the conduct of negotiations concerning recognition of Soviet Russia and the conclusion of commercial agreements and understandings with it.

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF A SECRET INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE

BUREAU:

1. General condition of economic and commercial life in the United States

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2. Accumulation of any particular kind of goods in any particular district
3. Lack of any specific kind of goods
4. Credit operations, loans and the attitude of public opinion thereon
5. Labor troubles.

### III. ESTABLISHMENT OF SECRET AGENCY FOR THE STUDY OF INTERNAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS.

1. The state of mind of officialdom and of various political groups and parties
2. The state of public opinion with regard to Soviet Russia and internal political affairs
3. The possibility of changes in the composition of the government and the attitude of Congress, political parties and the population at large toward the government and its individual members
4. Growth of popular discontent and its causes
5. Which groups are favorably inclined toward the Soviet Government and to what extent. To what extent can these groups be utilized in the execution of any plans of the Toche-Ka.

### IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF SECRET AGENCY FOR MILITARY ESPIONAGE.

1. Composition, organization, disposition, armament, equipment, training, condition, commanding staff of military and naval establishments. General spirit of the Army and Navy.

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V. INFORMATION CONCERNING ARMY AND NAVY INSTITUTIONS, ESTABLISHMENTS, WAREHOUSES, ARSENALS.

1. Supplies (ports, arsenals, engineering, mine, medical, etc. divisions, activity of factories filling orders for the army and navy.
2. Information concerning fortresses and fortified naval bases.
3. Mobilization and concentration of military and naval forces in event of war.
4. Orders and reports bearing on military and naval maneuvers, target practice, experiments in army and navy, rules, regulations and instructions concerning respective divisions of army and navy.
5. Military aviation
6. Personal characteristics of commanding officers of all services
7. Method and extent of employment of human material available, i.e. which categories are brought into service and when, size of contingents, mode of enrollment, which categories remain unutilized etc. (i.e. information bearing on the activity of the Mobilization Department of the General Staff and respective army districts)
8. Total number of reserve forces and numbers of respective garrisons; character and regimental numbers of regular and reserve troops located in various camps and garrisons; principal character of their employment and mode of training; their composition by categories; time and period of fullest and lowest mobilization of reserve forces

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10. The question of officers: how large is the reduction of the commanding staff; what is the percentage of regular officers distributed among respective contingents; preparation of candidates for official posts; schools maintained for this purpose and their method of training
11. Political attitude of troops stationed in various parts of the United States; their attitude toward particular events; information concerning deserters, their number and the attitude of the population toward them
12. Present condition of fortresses
13. Information concerning military and political censorship; what are the events publication and discussion of which is forbidden; what particular interpretations is the press ordered to give to particular events
14. Information concerning munitions factories; number and kind of guns produced weekly by respective plants; information concerning production of small arms and supplies; information concerning supplies of guns, arms and small firearms from abroad
15. Production of factories producing poison gases; composition of gases; methods of their application and counter action; production of poison gas shells
16. Production of dirigibles and aeroplanes; extent of production; extent of supplies on hand necessary for the operation of the air fleet
17. Production of automobiles, motor cycles etc; production of factories manufacturing automobiles and railway rolling stock and materials appertaining thereto;

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supplies of oil and petrol;

18. Information on general supplies for army: food, fodder, shoes, clothing, cloth and all other materials

19. Number of horses in the country and proportion of losses; their chief sources of supply, etc.

VI. ON MAY, 27, 1924, CHURGIN AND KOMMISSAROFF  
RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO DEVELOP THEIR  
NETWORK OF ESPIONAGE BY MEANS OF  
BOTH RESIDENT AND TRAVELLING  
AGENTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. In view of the present unfavorable political situation in the United States, the principal agents are to be chosen from the ranks of the American Communist Party; these must possess the qualifications best fitting them for their task from the point of view of their respective localities and their ability for camouflage: by these are meant their profession, social position and other conditions which might facilitate their operations
2. Despite the general unfavorable political situation mentioned above agents must be sought among all classes of the population, all classes of society, to wit: members of the administrative forces of factories manufacturing military supplies, their families and servants; doctors, photographers, teachers, usurers, artisans, employees of plants having any connection with army institutions, butlers, waitresses in cafes, restaurants and hotels frequented by officers and men of the army and navy services; army and navy contractors and employees

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of book stores who might be useful in obtaining confidential publications; persons employed in the mobilization department; railway employees etc., owners and employees of saloons, stores and tea rooms frequented by lower rank employees of military institutions; owners and employees of houses of prostitution, circuses and cabarets frequented by military men; employees of banks, insurance companies and commercial institutions gathering information which may possess material necessary to espionage.

VIII. IN VIEW OF THE AFOREMENTIONED POLITICAL SITUATION IN AMERICA CHURGIN WAS AGAIN WARNED TO ENTRUST THE MAIN PART OF THE WORK TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY.

IX. FOR PURPOSES OF CONTROL OVER CHURGIN AND KOMISSAROFF, THE TCHEKA DIVISION IN BERLIN COMMISSIONED A CERTAIN ZONSTEIN (alias BORZATI) TO GO TO THE UNITED STATES. ZONSTEIN'S RESIDENCE IS IN BERLIN. ZONSTEIN'S

CONFIDENTIAL INSTRUCTIONS WERE:

1. In view of lack of direct communication between the Tcheka centre in Berlin - a circumstance which might encourage the agency in New York to vitiate or exaggerate its activities and
2. In view of the possibility of the liquidation of Churgin and Komissareff by the police and the danger of the police continuing the agency's work with the purpose

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of misleading the Soviet Government and

3. In view of the possibility of disagreements in the reports of the agents themselves due to the variegation of sources of information or of the abilities of the agents themselves.

Before his departure for New York Zonstein, who travelled under his real name, was given certain instructions bearing upon the possibility of his detention and examination. He was told to be ready at all times

1. to tell the story of his life in chronological order: to master in his mind all details concerning his various places of sojourn, occupation and earnings and to exercise particular care in memorizing these details for the period when he was not closely associated with the Teheka organization

2. In view of the fact that he was to return to Berlin under another name, he was given the following instructions: 1) to memorize his entire biography; to prepare beforehand his replies concerning his place of birth, details concerning his alleged parents, family, relations, acquaintances, etc.; he must be able to show a detailed acquaintance with the town where he pretended to have been born; to be prepared to answer most unexpected questions such as: where he bought his hat, the name of the servant of the house where he lives, etc. Michael Vishnewski, another control agent, was sent to New York with similar instructions.



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VIII. METHODS PREVIOUSLY AGREED UPON FOR THE TRANSFER OF REPORTS FROM THE AGENCY IN NEW YORK TO THE CENTRAL AGENCY IN BERLIN.

1. In view of the agency's inability to employ a regular diplomatic courier service, which will become possible only with the recognition of the Soviet Government by the United States, the mode of communication is to be regularly maintained through a system of special courier-agents or (more frequently) by mail: 1) The mail code: the basis of the code are names and addresses of persons taken from the city directory. A series of names and addresses are taken from the directory, ostensibly for the purpose of supplying them with prospectuses, samples of goods, etc. The message is then put in the form of this code, with all necessary figures corresponding to the alleged telephone numbers of the persons to be addressed; or the code message is divided into respective parts, with the names of persons utilized whose telephone numbers correspond to the desired figures, these persons being designated as alleged prospective customers; the code is divided on the principle of the numbering of medical preparations as contained in a travelling medical case (the numbers of medical preparations corresponding to the coded messages). The principle of the code corresponds to the ratio of the quantities of drugs in a travelling medical case.

Newspaper clippings: The code is based on the name of the newspaper and the size of the clipping (number of

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lines); the substance need have no meaning. Proper names of newspapers and proper names contained in clippings plus a choice of verbs previously agreed upon on the basis of their position in the clipping form the code. Every newspaper, as previously agreed upon, belongs to a separate code group.

These are the methods of communication between the New York and Berlin agencies.

IX. The Soviet Government will dispatch a special envoy to the Argentine in the near future. The man the government has in mind is a certain ~~Ladan~~, now residing in Berlin. Ladan arrived in Charuoff from the United States, in 1922, whence he was sent by the Galician Bureau of the Communist Internationale to Berlin. To make possible his "legal" residence in Berlin he was appointed attache of the Ukrainian Soviet Embassy in Berlin (Kronprinzen Ufer 10). Simultaneously he opened a conspiratory centre under the guise of the "Kosmos" publishing house in this city. This publishing house is maintained on funds of the Communist Internationale. Ladan served a term in jail in New York. His real duty in the Argentine will be as chief agent of a Toheka division in that country.

X. Problems and Plans of the Toheka Agency in the United States. A study of the development of Bolshevist espionage abroad through its initial stages and of the struggle of the Soviet Government for its recognition by foreign powers will show that the real purpose of the

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Soviet Government at all times is the establishment of safe bases of operations for the Toheka and the Communist Internationale under the guise of Soviet Embassies.

The same holds true in the Soviet Governments struggle for recognition by the United States. Churgin's chief task is to obtain the "legalization" of his position in America and the safety of his agents in the establishment of a future diplomatic courier service in preparation of the official recognition of the Soviet Government by the U.S. Churgin is performing the preparatory work for larger operations of the Toheka in America in the future. His work has already met with considerable success. He has utilized fully the connections obtained as a result of the visit of American senators to Moscow. This is seen from the reports of Churgin and Kommisaroff received in Berlin. They are now demanding an extension of the appropriations granted them and an enlargement of their staff. It is difficult to say whether this demand is based upon actual and valid necessity or upon their desire to increase their supply of cash. It is certain, however, that they have been of great use to the Toheka and the military espionage service of the Revolutionary Military Council of the Soviet Republic. The Soviet embassy in Berlin receives constantly large masses of American military literature, including information on latest American military inventions. Much of the information is of a confidential nature. The success obtained by Churgin and Kommisaroff in America is evidenced by the fact that there arrived recently at the Soviet embassy here a model of the latest

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American handmachine gun (Galt, 420 shots per minute). This model was tested recently in the basement of the embassy here, in preparation for the placing of a large order of these machine guns. A similar test was made at the Soviet Embassy here with a steel armor. The Soviet Government intends to purchase 500,000 of these armors at 5 dollars a piece (2-1/2 million dollars). Both tests were satisfactory. These facts show conclusively that the Tcheka agency in America has succeeded in establishing truly important connections, so much so that the agency is now extending its operations on a larger scale, as shown by supplementary instructions forwarded recently to Gungin and Komisaroff from Berlin. These instructions concern the extension of Soviet propaganda among Russian emigrants in New York, the collection of compromising material against prominent American political personages such as members of the Government, Congress and the respective parties opposed to the Soviet Government and its recognition and the influencing of elections. In addition, the powers that be in Moscow are now seriously discussing the question of the advisability of terrorists activity against prominent opponents of the Soviet Government in the U. S., i.e. the assassination of Henry Ford who is regarded as the chief financial backer of the Russian monarchists. Moscow regards Ford's money as chiefly responsible for the growth of monarchist sentiment in Russian cities and villages.

More interesting and complete details of the work of the Tcheka and Communist Internationale can be obtained, however, only by a closer study of the centres of operations in Moscow and Berlin.

OFFICE OF  
THE UNDERSECRETARY



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

February 10, 1925

FEB  
14  
1925

~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~

61-3499

Dear Mr. Hoover:

For your strictly confidential information there is enclosed herewith a copy of the translation of the minutes of a meeting of the Soviet of People's Commissars, held on December 9. The principal address was delivered by Dzerzhinsky, who outlined the work of the All-Russian Extraordinary Commission (CHEKA) and its successor, the State Political Administration (G.P.U.) during the past seven years.

In view of the confidential source from which this information was obtained, I should appreciate your using it with the utmost discretion.

Very truly yours,

*Robert B. Ross Law*

J. E. Hoover, Esquire,  
Director, Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

RECORDED & INDEXED  
FEB 24 1925

\ Enclosure.

U-2 861.00/10631 Conf.

*[Handwritten signature]*

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BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
FEB 11 1925 A.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
Division 2	FILE

December 29th, 1924.

SESSION OF SOVNARKOM OF THE S.S.S.R. DECEMBER 9th.1924.

Present: President of Sovnarkom,-	<u>RYKOV.</u>
Commissioner for Foreign	
Affairs -	<u>ONICHENIN.</u>
Deputy Commissioner of War-	<u>FRUNZE.</u>
Commissioner of Finance -	<u>SOKOLNIKOV.</u>
Deputy-Commissioner of	
Foreign Trade -	<u>AYAKSEV.</u>
Commissioner of Railroads -	<u>RUZAVIN.</u>
Commissioner of Home Trade-	<u>LEZHNEV.</u>
Commissioner of Labor -	<u>SCHULZ.</u>
Deputy-Commissioner of	
Workmen-Peasant	
Inspection -	<u>KISSILEV.</u>
Commissioner of Posts and	
Telegraphs -	<u>SMIRNOV.</u>
President of the Supreme	
Council of People's	
Economy -	<u>DZERZHINSKY.</u>

President - RYKOV.

Secretary - KHLOPLIANKIN.

Session opened at 8.35 p.m.

RYKOV: I hereby declare the session of the Sovnarkom to be open. Comrade Dzerzhinsky will make his report.

DZERZHINSKY: Esteemed comrades! On December 7th of this year seven years were completed from the day of the formation of the All-Russian Extraordinary Commission, the predecessor of the O.G.P.U.

This fighting organ of proletarian dictatorship bred in the thunder and storm of civil war up to the present time remains the terror of all the enemies of the revolution. Extraordinary commissions are an apparatus of violence for the reason that dictatorship as a whole implies the adoption of violence for the purpose of putting down the desperate endeavors at resistance of the conquered bourgeoisie and landlords. It was indispensable finally to

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break and render impotent the bourgeoisie and its lesser supporters, necessary to counter the stubborn sabotage of the intelligentsia which aimed at breaking off all the endeavors of the Soviet power. But for this purpose it was necessary to adopt decisive measures. This is what caused the Soviet government to create on December 7th 1917 a special organ to combat counter-revolution, sabotage and speculation - the All-Russian Extraordinary Commission.

The working class has always been distinguished for its humaneness and generosity to its class enemies. The first period of the existence of the Soviet Government is typical of this. Up to the Spring of 1918 bourgeois and small-bourgeois newspapers were openly being published in Moscow, and, to a certain extent, in Petrograd; in Moscow up to May, 1918, there was a Club of the K.D. Party (Constitutional Democrats), a Trade-Industrial Committee and a number of other bourgeois organisations. And it was only the growth of the counter-attack by white-guard elements in the Spring of 1918, relying upon the military and the old officials, which compelled the CHEKA radically to alter its fighting methods so as to safeguard revolutionary order. In the heat of ensuing civil war the CHEKA by the general course and conditions of the struggle was compelled to enter upon the road of still more severe repressions against the enemies of the proletarian revolution. To quell and prevent attempts at counter-revolutionary

-3-

risings and white terror it was necessary to bring into play the elements of terror. The CHEKA was compelled to introduce the extreme penalty against the enemies of the people. But as soon as the proportion of strength in the civil war altered in favor of the Soviet government, the weight of repressions was immediately lightened.

However, the further course of the civil war showed that the generosity shown by the Russian proletariat had led to results contrary to those expected. Mass instances of arson and blowing up of state depots, bridges, and the destruction of railways organized in the summer of 1920 on Soviet territory by Polish spies and agents of Wrangel, as well as increasing instances of bandit raids and robberies once more compelled the CHEKA to introduce more severe and active methods of counteraction. Difficult tasks fell to the CHEKA. It was confronted by a reactionary mass extending from the Mensheviks and White Social-Revolutionaries to the black-hundred supporters of restoration - a mass intrinsically one, in its final aims united. At the end of the fourth year of the existence of the CHEKA the general circumstances had changed fundamentally. The White armies and fronts had disappeared, the "kulak" (rich peasantry) elements in the villages had quietened down. In this gigantic open conflict of workman-peasant Russia with its innumerable host of enemies, in this victorious war filled with the drama and heroic self-sacrifice of the working class, the CHEKA



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occupies a place by no means the last. The methods and maintenance of the struggle of the CHEKA altered in accordance with general conditions and the character of individual stages of the civil war. The period preceding the rise of the White armies on the Don, the Kuban, and in Siberia (up to the Autumn of 1918) is distinguished by extreme activity of numerous White groups of every possible political complexion. In many towns there were opened recruiting bureaus for sending officers to the White armies then being organized. The putting down of the rebellion of the Left Social-Revolutionaries, "liquidation" of the "Union for Defense of Country and Liberty", started under the direction of Savinkov and with the aid of representatives of the Entente, the rebellion in the town of Yaroslavl, liquidation of the Lockhardt conspiracy, of a number of White-guard risings in the provinces and anarcho-bandit federations - all this demanded from the CHEKA the exercise of extreme energy and strength. After the formation of the outward fronts the role of the White organizations forming on Soviet territory reduced itself to that of auxiliary organs of the Siberian, South-Russian and other dictatorships of the generals. The larger organizations discovered and liquidated by the CHEKA in 1919-1921, such as the "Tactical Center", "National Center", "Soyuz Vozrozhdeniye Rossii" (Union of the Re-birth of Russia), the "Council of Public Workers", the "Military Organization of the Tactical Center", the "Trade-Industrial Committee", conspiracies of

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Yudenitch's supporters in Petrograd and a number of Entente, Polish, and other spy organizations, were inspired and directed by centers of counter-revolution beyond the border and aimed at overthrowing the Soviet power from within and opening the fronts to the advance of the White generals.

After the liquidation of these organized forces the counter-revolutionary body endeavored to make use of the "kulak" disturbances breaking out in certain districts of the republic. The leader of this movement was the Social-Revolutionary Party. The quelling of the "Antonovshchina" (movement of Ataman Antonov), which wrought destruction for many months in the Tambov government, of the Siberian "Regional Union of Working Peasants", the rising in the region of the Omsk-Tiumen-Tobolsk railway, causing cessation of movement of food trains to the center, and the liquidation of the Kronstadt and Karelian risings put an end to the small-bourgeois counter-revolutionary movement. The change in the course of the economic policy of the Soviet power, partially reconciling the village with the Soviet regime, destroyed the hopes of the White horde of a possible general mass movement, and the Whites entered upon the road of open adventure, the road of forming territorial fighting groups aiming at general destruction and ruin. The White organizations of Savinkov, Petliura, Professor Tagantsev, and others, the Tiumanik raid and the rising in Georgia disclosed and liquidated by the organs of the

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O.G.P.U. were the last spasmodic spurts of the counter-revolutionary movement.

Having taken into its hands the defense of the frontiers, the CHEKA, re-named O.G.P.U., up to the present still successfully copes with all attempts at bandit raids on Soviet White-Russian-Ukrainian territory. Besides this the O.G.P.U. has at its disposal strongly welded and united "shock" Communist detachments, which can at any moment if necessary cause serious unpleasantness to our enemies-neighbors Poland and Rumania.

Simultaneously with the phase of recognition, diplomatic negotiations, etc., upon the O.G.P.U. has also devolved the grave task of watching the diplomatic missions of the foreign powers, and of countering espionage, which has made itself strongly at home in the Polish and Estonian Missions. Of course, I do not wish to imply hereby that other diplomatic missions have not endeavored to make use of their stay in the S.S.S.R. for purposes of espionage, but the first place in this respect must be given to the Poles, who have carried out, and still carry out, the tasks entrusted them by the French and British Intelligence.

The O.G.P.U. not only works energetically at paralyzing the espionage of foreign states in the S.S.S.R., but it has also succeeded in creating a network of information-intelligence agencies in all the large centers of Europe and North America. Responsible workers of the O.G.P.U. are detailed

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to all the diplomatic and trade missions of the S.S.S.R. abroad. The total strength of the Foreign Department of the O.G.P.U. is 1,300 persons, including the employees of the Foreign Department in Moscow. The O.G.P.U. has repeatedly rendered service to the Commissariat of Foreign Affairs and the Staff of the Red Army in supplying secret information both of a political and military nature. The apparatus of the O.G.P.U. is served by 24,700 employees, which, taking into consideration the extent of the territory of the S.S.S.R. is not at all excessive. The Detachments for Special Services of the O.G.P.U., the military units subordinated to it, comprise the impressive force of approximately 110,000 bayonets and 28,000 sabres.

→ Recently the O.G.P.U. has undertaken a series of measures to improve the material position both of the officers and Red Guards of its detachments for special services. So far as concerns the struggle against counter-revolution, in spite of the fact that there are certain signs of increase of anti-Soviet feeling in the villages and among the irresponsible workers of certain districts of Leningrad and Moscow, the O.G.P.U. considers that any mass expression of this feeling or open action against the Soviet government is not possible. The increasing number of murders locally of district (volost) or village workers of the Soviet government testifies to a certain activity among the "kulak" elements in the villages, but I am of the

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opinion that this is a temporary phenomenon, with which we shall be enabled to cope in the near future by means of severe repressing and merciless punishment. The Mensheviks and Social-Revolutionaries would appear finally to have lost the confidence of the working class masses. In the villages of Central Russia there is a noticeable increase of monarchist propaganda, carried on by priests and traders. I think it is unnecessary to state that the O.G.P.U. is taking all measures for the eradication of such propaganda.

Rather more dangerous, however, is another phenomenon - that of the possibility of the creation of a split in our Party. The tactless actions of Comrade Trotsky must be admitted to have done a great deal of harm to the unity of the Party. Talk has resulted, discussions, arguments, "circles" are being formed. "Trotskyism" has few supporters, but the actual fact of its existence is dangerous. I personally should consider that the best possible issue and end of the story would be to request Comrade Trotsky to leave the territory of the S.S.S.R. Abroad he would, I consider, soon think better of the matter.

A year ago, during the first outbreak of Comrade Trotsky, when his lack of willingness to submit to Party discipline, his desire to replace by his pygmy stature the grand figure of Comrade Lenin, were already made plain. I proposed then that Comrade Trotsky should be severely

-9-

warned. The Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party and the Soviet government acted too leniently towards Comrade Trotsky, letting him off on leave for reasons of health but leaving him his post and membership in the Politbureau. It is to be assumed that this time the Politbureau will show Comrade Trotsky the door of the Party.

With regard to "Trotskyism" the O.G.P.U. has so far adopted no measures of repression, but at the first symptom of open action against the Soviet government, agitation, or propaganda against the Central Committee, the O.G.P.U. will adopt against it the same measures as those adopted against the enemies of the revolution. Working in contact with the Central Committee, the O.G.P.U. is assured that "Trotskyist" opposition will be done away with.

RYKOV: Who desires to speak on the report of Comrade Dzerzhinsky? Comrade Sokolnikov will now speak.

SOKOLNIKOV: I propose that the gratitude of the Soviet government should be expressed to the O.G.P.U. for its glorious and excellent work in countering the enemies of the Soviet State.

RYKOV: Who is in favor of the proposal of Comrade Sokolnikov?

(Proposal of comrade Sokolnikov to express gratitude to the O.G.P.U. on behalf of the Soviet government is adopted unanimously.)

RYKOV: Comrade Schmidt will now speak.

SCHMIDT: The Commissariat of Labor considers it indispensable to settle the question of so-called "co-tenure"

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("Sovmestitelstvo"). In fighting against the "co-tenure" of posts for personal interests unworthy of Communists and honest Soviet workers it is necessary to establish a certain criterion in this respect, certain forms of "co-tenure" being absolutely admissible, as for instance cultural-education, pedagogical activities, etc., which should not only be allowed employees of state institutions, but even welcomed, as of benefit to the general cause. On this ground the Commissariat of Labor proposes that the following "co-tenures" for employees in state institutions and enterprises be admitted:-

(1) Pedagogical, scientific-technical in special scientific-technical councils and on special questions, cultural-educational, lecturing, literary (collaboration, editing, etc.), artistic, and medical (practice).

(2) Participation in sessions and work of commissions, both permanent and temporary inter-departmental, and departmental on conditions of special delegation to these commissions by responsible directors of departments.

(3) Collaboration in co-operatives of own institution.

(4) All forms of special work:

(a) In individual order;

(b) Overtime, excepting in instances provided for by clauses 5 and 6 of the decree of the Sovnarkom of the 21st of December.

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RYKOV: Who is in favor of confirming the project of the Commissariat of Labor?

(Project of the Commissariat of Labor regarding simultaneous occupations which are not regarded as "co-tenure" is adopted without discussions.)

RYKOV: I hereby declare the session of the Sovnarkom to be closed.

Session closed at 1.10 A.M.



OFFICE OF  
THE UNDERSECRETARY



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON



April 1, 1925.

41-3499

Dear Mr. Hoover;

For your information there is enclosed herewith a copy of report No. 1039, dated February 24, which has been received from the American Legation at Riga, concerning Rakovsky's relations with the Cheka.

Very truly yours,

Charles D. Lane

J. E. Hoover, Esquire,  
Director, Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure.

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61-3499-19	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
APR 2 1925 P.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
Division 2	FILE

AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE REPORT.

No. 1039

Date, February 24, 1925.

OFFICE: American Legation, Riga.

GEOGRAPHIC DESIGNATION: (RUSSIA)-UNION OF SOVIET  
SOCIALIST REPUBLICS.

SCHEDULE No. and SUBJECT: P2448 Diplomatic officers.

TITLE: Rakovsky's Relations with the CHEKA.

SOURCE: Moscow IZVESTIA, No.28, February 4, 1925.

D.B.M.

F.W.B. COLEMAN.

(Initials of Officer preparing report) (Signature of Chief of Mission).

REFERENCE TO PREVIOUS REPORTS:

Kharkov, February 3. Rakovsky paid a visit to the regiment of the State Political Administration (formerly CHEKA - note of translator) of which he is honorary red army soldier, and reported on his work during his absence from Kharkov. While at London Rakovsky did not interrupt his relations with the regiment but continued to conduct a regular correspondence with it. The red army soldiers met him and honored him with a cheerful ovation.

In the evening Rakovsky visited the factory "Svet of the miner" (Light of the miner) where he made a detailed report on the international situation of the Soviet Union. The workingmen

- 2 -

greeting Rakovsky with stormy applause, adopted after his report a resolution in which they fully approved the international policy of the Soviet government.

In quintuplicate.  
Cc to E.I.U. Paris.

OFFICE OF  
THE UNDERSECRETARY



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON:

December 21, 1926.

~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~

3499

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Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am sending you herewith for your information translations of two documents dealing with the preparatory work relative to the organization of an International G.P.U. (Cheka).

Very truly yours,

A. W. K.

J. E. Hoover, Esquire,  
Director, Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

1 Enclosure.  
861.00B/437

*Handwritten initials and notes:*  
J.E.H.  
861.00B/437

DEC 20 1926

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-3499-28	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
DEC 22 1926 A.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
Div. Two	FILE

## ACTIVITY TOWARD ORGANIZATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL

## G. P. U. (CHEKA)

The chief reasons why the Political Bureau and the Communist International feel compelled to create in Moscow an international organization as strong as the G.P.U.

(General State-Political Office) alias Cheka, are as follows:

1. The necessity of a constant preparation for an offensive of the secret armed forces and operative organizations of the communist parties of all countries (mainly in Europe and America).

2. The G.P.U. being burdened with work in Russia in view of the ever increasing opposition which could result in an open pogrom (raid) against Jews and other foreigners.

3. The removal of a large number of the co-workers of the G.P.U., who, having become rich, have settled in foreign countries (chiefly in Germany) and do not wish to return to Russia; however, these chekists do not refuse to continue their work abroad.

4. The transfer of the Foreign Department of the G.P.U. (I.N.O.G.P.U.) abroad will facilitate the comparison of the proscription lists of different cities with the central organizations in the capitals. The communists understand very well that since the conditions of life in Russia have become known all countries will not allow experiments of communism to be made within their territory. Still they count upon local insurrections and disturbances to enable them at such times to kill persons marked beforehand. For the time being the principal task will be to compile such lists and to familiarize themselves with institutions (Government, party, secret institutions) which are then to be liquidated.

The activity toward organization of such an international G.P.U. has already begun. The centre of this activity

61-3 497-20 has not

has not yet been designated but it is expected that only Berlin will be suitable. The subtle and insidious methods of the G.P.U., which have been worked out with large political experience are not to be compared in any way with the methods of the German committees.

At present many secret agents are crossing Germany for work in Europe and America. For instance one of the chief leaders of the G. P. U. organization in America, a German citizen Rosa Maria LOHMEYER, left Hamburg in April 1926.

It is said that a subdivision of the E.K.R.I. already exists in Berlin and is protected by the plenipotentiary representation (of the Soviets?). It is expected that by August 15 the establishment of a Department of Information and Finance will be realized. The new Department will be temporarily attached to the Plenipotentiary Representation and later to the Commercial Representation.

We learned by chance from [redacted] worker, that the duties of an Observer of the International G.P.U. in Paraguay have been entrusted to Comrade Manuel Antonovitch GURARI. He has received much money and is working under the disguise of a tobacco dealer. The G.P.U. has provided him with forged papers indicating that he has been arrested by the G.P.U. for his bourgeois views. This is the second time he has been sent abroad by the G.P.U.: first, he was sent to France, whence he returned to Moscow, Labianka No. 2 (staff of the G.P.U.). Later he was sent to Poland. He is also in possession of forged documents stating that he is a physician. On his way back from France he visited Berlin, but conducted himself very carefully, when the Berlin police got on his tracks and threatened to disclose his activity.

At present GURARI is in constant correspondence with Moscow and Berlin.

It seems that so far there is no observer of the International G.P.U. in Uruguay. The local agent of the G.P.U. has been advised to look for guidance from Architect HINTZ, who used to be a social-democrat, but now pretends to be a zealous monarchist and leader of an organization of the whites. Thanks to his associations and spirit of adventure he seems to G.P.U. to be a suitable agent for the International G.P.U. These observers and agents of the G.P.U. are in touch with the German citizen, a native of the Polish city of Belostok, Rosa LONDON, who is now in America. (U.S.A.).

The following people have been selected for work in North America:

- ✓ Mawro and Wawilo, both natives of Rumania.
- ✓ Josef Jankevski, native of Yekaterinodar.
- ✓ Rudolf Weiss, Serbian ex-officer.

Nikolai...

Nikolai (Nicholas) Wiltsherk (Wilson), native of  
Russia, former instructor of the foreign  
communist legions.

Poduan (probably Podoin) a former French woman spy.

The chief duties of the observer of the International  
G.P.U. in the U.S.A. have been entrusted to Wainstein, while  
Zelone Moses Solomonovitch works as his assistant.  
Abraham Grigorievitch Goldman and Ekana Yakovlevna Goldes  
are in charge of the communication with Hamburg.



OFFICE OF  
THE UNDERSECRETARY



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

March 10, 1927.

~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~

61-3499

Dear Mr. Hoover:

With reference to my letter of December 21, 1926 transmitting two documents dealing with the preparatory work relative to the organization of an International G.P.U. (Cheka), and with particular reference to Manuel Antonovich Gurari, I have been informed by the American Legation <sup>XV</sup> at Asuncion, Paraguay that no trace has been found of Gurari's arrival there.

Very truly yours,

*A. Kirk.*

J. E. Hoover, Esquire,  
Director, Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

RECORDED & INDEXED

MAR 14 1927

61-3499-21	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
MAR 11 1927 A.M.	
Div. Two	<i>[Signature]</i>



The "Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" in Berlin, Germany, of September the 25th 1921, published the following in connection with the reproduced chart of the "Organisation of the Bolshevik Propaganda":

"The above chart is showing the organization of the Bolshevik propaganda as spread throughout Europe. Its management is being conducted by the Propaganda Bureau which is a division of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee having as its objects, the propaganda within the country, in the army and abroad. The latter is divided into two sections; the Eastern and the Western. The Eastern section consists of eight groups, those of China and Korea, Japan, India, Afghanistan, Turkey, Persia, Caucasus and the Romandic Nations. The Western section embraces, outside of the European countries, the United States of America. The Propaganda Bureau is headed by the Propaganda Committee the members of which are: Zinovyev, Radek, Chicherin, Lunatcharsky, Krassin, Litvinov and others. The Committee again, is divided into an Official Section containing the Diplomatic and Commercial Delegations abroad, the Press Bureau, the News-agency "Rosta" and a number of wireless stations as well as the Secret Sections A. and B. conducting a Special Information and Communication Service under the management of a member of the Extraordinary Commission; the Che-Ka. The Official Section is conducted by Litvinov in Reval. Here there are the Printing Offices, the Information Bureaus and Warehouses for the goods that will be required, should reapproachment with other countries become perfected.

Litvinov also has charge of the Central Offices in Helsinki, Riga, Kovno, Prague, Vienna, Rome, Stockholm, Copenhagen, London and Berlin. The Russian money for the feeding of the chest of the Russian Missions is being forwarded by Litvinov either directly to those offices or to Berlin for further transmission. It also is being used for the support of the Communist Groups, mainly of those in Vienna, Prague and Berlin.

Berlin is ranking first among the Bolshevik Central Offices. It is overrun with Soviet agents. Its head is Wigger Kopp with his secretary Stomuniak. The main offices are located in the Maassenstrasse No. 9. With this, there are connected further separate bureaus constituting together an enormous administrative apparatus. The Berlin

8.

office is supporting the paper "Rote Fahne" and is conducting the Red Press-bureau in the Koenigsstrasse 24, issuing reports that are being scattered in enormous quantities through Europe. The office is headed by the German Communist, Anna Geier. The Berlin Central Office disposes over vast funds. It, however, is obliged to maintain an army of agents, informants, couriers, clubs, news-papers etc. Kepp also is subsidizing a shipping company; his real name is Kopelevich. He places great confidence in the organization "Peace and Work" which is managed by Prof. Stankevich and the journalist Golubov, endeavoring to reconcile the Russian emigres with the Soviet government.

The Secret Sections are working by means of strikes, sabotage, provocations and economic crises. Their Central Office is administered from Moscow and is under the direction of Zinovyev, Dzierzynsky, Kamenyev, Kurzky and others. Every foreign country has there its representative, among them there is the Englishman MacLean, who was arrested recently in England during the demonstrations of the unemployed.

The main and sub-arteries are indicated on the above chart. Seven of them are connecting Moscow with the centers of Europe.

The second place after Berlin is Prague. It is the connecting main between Moscow and Paris. The Office in Milan is directing the Italian, the Swiss and the Yugoslav Districts. Offices of similar importance are situated in Rome, Zagreb, Belgrad, Sofia, Adrianople and Constantinople, all of which are directed from Adrianople. Rumania is under special direction of Makovsky in Kiev. The well organized Western Sections of Zurich and London under the management of Kubalsky are worthy of mention. London is a subdivision of the Paris Section and is receiving special attention of Moscow. Toulouse is connected with Spain while Belgium and Holland are connected with Paris.

This enormous organization could not be changed or overthrown over night. Changes of individual persons might take place but they could not disturb the entire

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structure. The organization of the Bolshevik propaganda such as outlined here is working for the only great goal for which it has been created and which is the Universal Revolution."

TH: SMW:cc

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WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON

61-3499

June 17, 1927.

2

The Director,  
Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Below is quoted an extract of a confidential letter,  
recently received from a reliable source abroad:

"I send herewith list of Communist agents operating in America  
as furnished me by a Russian secret agent. I cannot vouch for  
the accuracy of this list. General Wrangle tells me that he  
does not know the agent, but does know the chief for whom the  
agent says he works. This chief is quite able to furnish cor-  
rect information on Communist activity, if he so desires. The  
list therefore may well be correct, but should be verified by  
other means."

The above information, with enclosure, is transmitted for  
your information.

Yours very truly,

*W. K. Wilson*

W. K. WILSON,  
Lieutenant Colonel, General Staff,  
Chief, War Plans and Training Branch.

1. encl.  
hjn

*W. K. Wilson*

*E. H.*

*H. J. Wilson*

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 24 1927

61-3499-22	
BUREAU	STIGATION
JUN 20 1927 A. M.	
JUSTICE	
Div. Two	FILE

Washington - Yakovenko, Salzman, Krause, Woode (Columbia)  
 Montgomery - Strandman (Alabama)  
 Phoenix - Feigelman (Arizona)  
 Little Rock - Bogolionbow, Shen-Tschi (Arkansas)  
 Sacramento - Karapentian (California)  
 Raleigh - Persons (Carolina of North)  
 Columbia - Ivsemin, Rosenzweig (Carolina-South)  
 Hartford - Djackson, Mmdstein (Connecticut)  
 Pierre, Zamigailoff (South-Dakota)  
 Florida - Tallahassee - Mashado.  
 Atlanta - Yakomouto (Georgia)  
 Indianapolis - Zakharoff (Indiana)  
 Topeka - MacDonald (Kansas)  
 Baton Rouge - Alaverdoff (Louisiana)  
 Augusta - Prodoline, Masse (Maine)  
 Boston - Baronoff, Eiller, Sandin, Shemsheinine (Massachusetts)  
 Lansing - Borotto, Tshijik (Michigan)  
 Jefferson-City - Falzman, Reise (Missouri)  
 Helena - Davidowitsch, Soloweitschick (Montana)  
 Lincoln - Broudman, Walentinow (Nebraska)  
 Carson City - Miloradoviz, Delidero (Nevada)  
 Concord - Weinstein, Miller (New Hampshire)  
 Trenton - Iwanoff, Holms (New Jersey)  
 Santa Fe - Wellington, Petroff Fan-Tahan (New Mexico)

Albany - Zamigailo, Pouschka, Grandiansky, Malama, Tomson (New York)  
 Guthrie - Malakoff (Oklahoma)  
 Harrisburg - Kleins, Dick Djefferson (Pennsylvania)  
 Providence - Palizin (Rhode Island)  
 Austin - Mokrievitsch, Dhonsohn II (Texas)  
 Richmond - Salva, Lapse (Virginia)  
~~XX~~  
 Olympia - Zeiler, Korschounoff, Teleguine, Lancia, Turner (Washington)  
 Madison - Talbot (Wisconsin)  
 San Juan Dautista de Puerto - Rico - Fischelwitsch (Porto-Rico)  
 Honolulu - Iwashkevitsch (Hawaii)  
 Manila - Yessaki (Philippines)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington

January 24, 1928



The Secretary of State presents his compliments to  
the Honorable the Attorney General and has the honor to  
transmit the enclosed communication for consideration and  
such action as may be required.

~~RECEIVED~~  
INDEXED

No. 3

61-3499-23	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JAN 25 1928 A.M.	
RECEIVED	FILE
Mr. Tamm	

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DC-2

*Handwritten initials and signatures*



Riga, Latvia.

*Press clipping*  
for Justice - *Mr. Hoover*

Copy also sent to \_\_\_\_\_  
and to \_\_\_\_\_ **November 24, 1927.**

No. 4887

1-3499

The Honorable,  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

61

Sir:

1-2/

I have the honor to forward a translation of a  
blank for use by G.P.U. officers when examining persons  
in their power, for whose authenticity V.P. Murtyev  
vouches.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

V. I. N. GOLDMAN.

Enclosures:-

- 1/ "How the OGPU recruits 'informers'".
  - 2/ Riga SPS PARIS, No. 263, November 22, 1927
- In quintuplicate.  
Copy to E.I.O. Paris.  
Copy to E.I.O. Paris for Peking.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JAN 25 1928 A. M.	
DEPARTMENT	JUSTICE
FILE	

Original Retained 61-16-105-9

61-3499-23

Enclosure No. to despatch No. 1887

TITLE: "How the CHEKA recruits 'informers'".

SOURCE: Letter of Vl. Burtsev to the Riga SEVODRIA,  
No. 263, November 22, 1927.

The letter accompanies a fac-simile reproduction of an alleged Russian document, reading in translation as follows:

Signature.

I, the undersigned citizen \_\_\_\_\_ living \_\_\_\_\_ working at \_\_\_\_\_ in quality, give the present signature to the effect that I obligate myself to keep in strictest secrecy the offer made to me by the regional plenipotentiary of the K.P.U. (so. Crimean section of the G.P.U.) to be a secret informer, and which I reject by reason \_\_\_\_\_.

In case of disclosure of all the above stated, I am subject to the supreme measure of punishment - SHOOTING.

Signature.

" \_\_\_\_\_ " \_\_\_\_\_ day 192 \_\_\_\_\_ year.

Typog. K.P.U. order 4444.

Burtsev's letter states that this blank was furnished by a man well known in serious anti-Bolshevist circles who took it directly from the portfolio of the chief examiner of the Crimean section of the G.P.U. Burtsev's comment directs attention to the obligation to give reasons for refusing to become a G.P.U. informer. "So, you do not sympathize with the Soviet power?", is the conclusion he puts into the mouth of the G.P.U. examiner.

C O P Y

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Washington

March 14, 1928



The Secretary of State presents his compliments  
to the Honorable the Attorney General and has the  
honor to transmit the enclosed communication for  
consideration and such action as may be required.

RECORDED & INDEXED +

61-3499-24

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MAR 15 1928

Div. Two

4-A  
A-G/O

UNITED STATES

Riga, Latvia,

January 19, 1928.

Copy is for Justice *France*  
Copy also sent to \_\_\_\_\_  
and to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

No. *61-3499*

The Honorable,

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the *6* ~~CHKA~~, All-Russian Extraordinary Commission, now O.G.P.U., the United State Political Administration, was celebrated on December 18, 1927. *6* ~~Ample~~ festivities, reviews of the ~~CHKA~~ troops, concerts and meetings took place on that day, and the Bolshevik press devoted many pages to description of the exploits and the importance of that institution. Orders and articles

*61-3499-24*

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1/ were also published by prominent OGPU workers who emphasized their success in combatting the counter-revolution, espionage, sabotage, etc., and the importance of their work for the dictatorship of the proletariat. The O.G.P.U. itself and 35 prominent O.G.P.U. workers were awarded the highest decoration of the Soviet Union, the order of the Red Banner. This decoration had never been conferred before on such a large number at a time. The singling out of this institution and its workers for jubilee distinction would be comparable to the grant of <sup>all</sup> the birthday honors to Scotland Yard. Nothing else so boldly discloses the basis of the present dictatorship.

Every action taken by the Soviet government on this occasion and articles written by the prominent Soviet officials frankly emphasized the unlimited power of the O.G.P.U., and the fear which it inspires not only among the enemies of the proletariat but among the Soviet and Party workers themselves.

2-3/ The merits of the O.G.P.U. are enumerated in the orders of the Revolutionary Military Soviet of the U.S.S.R., conferring the order of the Red Banner upon the O.G.P.U. workers for displaying exceptional energy in the most difficult times, for devotion to the struggle against counter-revolution, and for untiring pursuit of the enemies of the Soviet state. The struggles against open counter-revolutionary uprisings, conspiracies inspired by

-3-

foreign imperialists, peasant revolts, banditry, sabotage, corruption among the Soviet economic employees and other "intrigues of enemies of the proletariat" were all particularly described in an editorial and articles by XYaroslavsky, XPeters, XMartov, Professor XBekrotsky, XLatsis and others in the Moscow PRAVDA, No. 290, December 18, 1927, and in articles by XUnshlikh, XVirikh, XSamonov, XSalitsky and others in the Moscow IZVESTIA, No. 290, December 18, 1927. Reports concerning the official festivities, review of troops, resolutions passed and greetings presented by various organizations were published in the Moscow PRAVDA and IZVESTIA, No. 291, of December 20, 1927.

Along with cynical descriptions of the work of the CHEKA and O.G.P.U. and with expressions of the "pride of the proletariat" in this institution, there were also some efforts on the part of the O.G.P.U. officials to depict it as a mild and humane organization which was forced by the enemies of the proletariat to inaugurate the red terror in August, 1918, when the head of the Petrograd CHEKA, Uritsky, was shot and killed by a left Social-Revolutionary. Latsis even regrets that the CHEKA was too lenient to the counter-revolutionists: "If there is anything to be regretted now, then it is not that we were too cruel, but that we were too lenient to our foes... Until July, 1918, it (the CHEKA) did not shoot or in any other way struck out from the list of living people a single political enemy.

but only 10 bandits-criminals. Not a person killed during 6 months! These are the 'cruelties' of the horrible CHEKA...."

The editorial of the Moscow PRAVDA, No. 290, December 18, 1927, carries the following: "...The party of the proletariat is proud of the fact that the CHEKA - O.G.P.U. inspires horror in imperialistic enemies, fascists, members of the 'black-hundred', nervous liberals and philistines of all countries... The Bolshevik Party despises the calumnious babble of the capitalists about the 'barbarism of the CHEKA'".

Mikhail Koltsov writes in the same copy of the PRAVDA: "...Only after shots at Lenin were fired did the world learn indeed what red terror means..."

Other authors likewise emphasize that the terror was not an item of the Bolshevik program in the beginning of the revolution. "...Many a Tsarist minister and a number of other high officials would have remained quietly in jail and, perhaps, would have remained a long time if it had not been for the white terror, for the invasion of the Entente, for the work of Lockharts, Greniers and others..." (Article by Professor Bokrovsky in Moscow IZVESTIA, No. 290, December 18, 1927.)

No figures are given but an idea of how the "proletarian justice" acted can be obtained from the following quotation from Koltsov's article in

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the Moscow PRAVDA, No. 290, December 18, 1927:

"...A workman, president of a province CHEKA would sit down on a broken chair and, fully convinced of the righteousness of his proletarian cause, would write in pencil on a bit of paper: 'Malnichenko, as a reptile of the world bourgeoisie, and seven others who are in the cell with him are to be shot'".

In September, 1918, i.e. soon after the inauguration of the red terror, the Soviet of People's Commissars resolved: "All persons having anything to do with white-guardist organizations, conspiracies and mutinies, are subject to shooting..." (Petrovsky, Moscow IZVESTIA, No. 290, December 18, 1927.) Lenin's words are recalled: "Every state, also the most democratic republic, is nothing but a machine for suppression of one class by another. A proletarian state is a machine for suppression of the bourgeoisie by the proletariat..." (Lenin's works, Volume XVI, Page 7). Emphasis is placed upon the fact that "the CHEKA - O.G.P.U. is bone of the bone and blood of the blood of the dictatorship of the proletariat in our country". The editorial in the Moscow PRAVDA, No. 290, December 18, 1927, states that "the CHEKA - O.G.P.U. is the punishing hand of the victorious proletariat, a dread scourge uplifted against all its enemies".

Manifesto in the IZVESTIA, No. 290, December 18, 1927, adduces three instances of "proletarian justice", trying to show the leniency of the CHEKA, but proving



-6-

instead that the "class origin" of the prisoner has always played a decisive role in determining his fate. He relates how certain labor organizations and individual workmen were arrested as participants of the bandit gang and Anarchist organization which blew up the house of the Moscow Soviet in the Leontievsky lane. The CHEKA having found that the prisoners belonged to the labor class, were misled by Mensheviks and Anarchists and had sincerely repented, set them free.

Peters writes in the Moscow PRAVDA, No. 290, December 18, 1927: "In the work of the CHEKA there may have been individual mistakes but these mistakes were explained by lack of experience and the difficult struggle. The struggle was for life and death..." J. Mores in PRAVDA, No. 290, December 18, 1927, quotes a part of Lening's speech on the day of the first anniversary of October revolution: "...There is nothing astonishing in the fact that not only from our enemies but often even from friends we hear reproaches about the work of the CHEKA... Naturally we had to commit a number of mistakes and naturally the mistakes of the extraordinary commissions are more conspicuous than others... What surprises me in the outcries about the mistakes of the CHEKA is inability to put the question on a large scale. They single out individual mistakes of the CHEKA, cry out and fuss about them... The trouble is not with the workers of the CHEKA but lies in the character of their work, which needs determination,

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speed and, chiefly, exactitude... It is important for us that the CHEKA materializes directly the dictatorship of the proletariat and in this respect its role is priceless..."

After the inauguration of the New Economic Policy and the end of the civil war, the work of the CHEKA, re-named the O.G.P.U., "went along certain new directions. The struggle against economic counter-revolution and foreign espionage and also for protection of the boundaries - this was the main volume of work of the O.G.P.U. in the first half of the NEP period. The new situation demanded new methods of struggle, demanded more delicate methods of research". (Article by Ulrikh, Moscow IZVESTIA, No. 290, December 18, 1927.) "Our chief problems remained unchanged in the course of 10 years. Only ways and methods are changing. The O.G.P.U. faces all the time a fundamental problem: prevention of every attempt to blow us up from inside, merciless liquidation of political and economic counter-revolution in all its forms, shapes and manifestations..." (Article by Shchikht, Moscow IZVESTIA, No. 290, December 18, 1927.) "From organs of revenge they (the organs of the O.G.P.U.) turned into organs of extraordinary struggle on the basis of revolutionary legality". (Article by Galitsky, Moscow IZVESTIA, No. 290, December 18, 1927.) It became necessary to reveal all kinds of "espionage conspiracies financed by foreign

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imperialists" (trials of Latvian, Finnish, Estonian, Polish, English and other "spies"). The New Economic Policy and its product, the new Soviet bourgeoisie, have also furnished a vast field for the work of the O.G.P.U. for revealing those who had the interests of the Party insufficiently at heart. It would be difficult to enumerate all the branches of social and economic life in the U.S.S.R. in which the O.G.P.U. had the last word. An article by Samsonov in Moscow IZVESTIA, No. 290, December 18, 1927, entitled: "The ten years' road" includes even an "extraordinary commission for combatting snow-drifts".

In explanation of the successful work of the O.G.P.U. - CHEKA emphasis is placed upon the "sympathies and support" rendered to this institution by the laboring masses. Xokrovsky in his article in Moscow PRAVDA, No. 290, December 18, 1927, makes the following quotations from the "memories" of XZatels and XPeters, two outstanding personalities of the O.G.P.U.: "This participation of the masses in the struggle against counter-revolution explains a detail, very insignificant at the first glance but a very characteristic one: the insignificance of the material means, both human and financial, which were at the disposal of the new institution when it went into battle against Russian financial capital, which, moreover, was supported by international capital. The first 'budget appropriation' for the CHEKA amounted to

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10,000 rubles. Since in December, 1917, a ruble was equal to 5 copeks in gold, the funds of this most dread weapon of the proletarian dictatorship amounted to only 500 rubles gold. Such a "régime of economy" could serve as an example in our days. The same thing with the staff of employees" (Peters).

"During the first months of the work of the VCHKA in Moscow its personnel consisted of 40 collaborators, including chauffeurs and couriers. Even at the time of the uprising of the left Social-Revolutionaries, the number of collaborators of the VCHKA reached only 120 persons. If the VCHKA was able to carry on a relatively large work, it was chiefly due to assistance on the part of the population..." (Latain.)

Other authors likewise emphasize the important role played in the work of the CHEKA by the "masses". Samsonov says in Moscow IZVESTIA, No. 250, December 18, 1927: "Contact with the masses and their sympathies and support, that is the sure token of successful struggle on the part of the VCHKA - O.G.P.U. against the enemies of the proletarian revolution..."

~~V. Mantsev~~ writes in the same copy of the IZVESTIA: "...We discovered secret threads of conspiracies, ... not because some Sherlock Holmeses were working in the CHEKA, but because

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the CHEKA was a revolutionary organ of struggle... closely connected with the Party and the laboring class... Here is one of the characteristic cases in the struggle against the counter-revolutionary organizations when the sympathies of the working masses helped us to reveal a band of criminals and prevent a number of crises against the revolution. Surely all remember that when Denikin was approaching Moscow the counter-revolutionists blew up the house of the Moscow Committee of the Party in Leontievsky lane. After the explosion we thought that this had been done by a white-guard organization, especially so because just at that time organizations of the National and Tactical Centers were revealed,... and we began the search in this direction. But then the following happened. In a railway car near Bryansk or Tula, I do not remember exactly, red army soldiers and workmen who were travelling in it were talking about this explosion and expressed their indignation over the work of white-guardists-traitors to the revolution. A young woman present in the car broke into the conversation and said that perhaps the explosion was organized not by white-guardists but by true revolutionists and friends of the people. This sounded suspicious and the passengers... handed her to the organs of the transport CHEKA of the nearest town. It was discovered that this young woman belonged to the Anarchist group "Nabat" and was travelling on

instructions from this group for work in the Ukraine. A letter from one of the leaders of the group 'Nabat' was found on her in which the former wrote... that the explosion at the Moscow Committee was committed by a group of underground anarchist workers."

Nikolai Koltsov tells in the PRAVDA, No. 290, December 18, 1927, how denunciations and reports are obtained by the CHEKA from the population. "To help the police of the King, this was considered innocent even by an aristocrat received at court... To help the committee of public safety in the times of the revolution was considered a moral duty and a true civil merit. One could be openly proud if he could unmask a counter-revolutionist... Imagine two persons: one is a revolutionist in a bourgeois country, another a white-guerrilla in the country of the Soviets. Both are illegal, both work underground, both are hiding themselves.

"The first, the revolutionist, falls into the hands of the police: in a majority of cases the police finds him through its own apparatus. Until a staff police agent or a paid provocateur-fascist or a social-revolutionist finds him, until they follow the track of the revolutionist, until they catch him either in his flat or in the street, the underground worker can safely live for months and years. Almost nobody on the side will come to the help of the police. It is quite isolated from the laborers. Everybody will consider it a shame to report on a political criminal hiding

from the police. This takes place in a number of capitalist countries in our days, this was true also in Russia in the Tsarist times. Paid provocation, individual betrayals, all this amounted to nothing, all this was a drop in the sea. With the presence of both, provocation and betrayal, the underground party of Bolsheviks was being built up and was growing in the course of dozens of years in Russia. Its leaders, organizers, instructors were travelling, although with a big risk, everywhere, did their job, evading carefully the secret police agents, but appeared openly and fearlessly among thousands of workmen."

"Now imagine the second one, a white guardist, who has come to arrange a conspiracy in the Soviet country. Let him even come with every precaution and stop with his friend, also a white-guardist; let the G.P.U. suspect nothing about his presence. But the proletarian organization of protection of the revolution is not isolated like the bourgeois police from the surrounding world. The G.P.U. is now supported by the largest circles of the population as one could only imagine. If the white guest appears suspicious the (sec. Party) faction of the house committee will become interested in him. A Communist youth-plumber working in the house will pay attention to him. The maid, having come home from a conference of houseworkers, where a report was read on foreign and domestic enemies of the dictatorship of the proletariat, will scrutinize

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the tenant who has appeared suspicious to her; finally a neighbor's daughter, a pioneer, having heard occasional talk in the corridor, will not sleep for long hours and, lying in bed, will turn in her mind the things she has heard. And all of them having suspected a counter-revolutionist, a spy, a white-terrorist, all of them individually and all together will not wait until they are asked, but will go themselves to the O.P.U. and will tell enthusiastically, particularly and convincingly all they have seen and heard. They will bring the CHEKA agents to the white-guardist, they will help to catch him, they will take part in the fight if the white-guardist shows resistance."

In spite of these "burning sympathies" of the population for the CHEKA, Koltsov admits that "there may be reasons for discontent even in our country. There are discontented people and not a few of them. But why would the former Russian political parties not resume mass work?" "...But mass work? Conferences? This is even hard to imagine. A Social-Revolutionary speaking before 10 or more persons? A Monarchist at a Soviet meeting? This sounds not only like fantasy, a joke, this is simply impossible, absurd..."

Recent action taken by the Central Committee of the Party showed that the CHEKA was called upon to do away with the opposition. Latsis in his article in the Moscow PRAVDA, No. 290, December 18, 1927, says: "There are people who are not pleased also



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now with this work. Voices to this effect are already heard. It is true they come from people who by their actions placed themselves beyond the ranks of the Party". Balitsky in IZVESTIYA, No. 290, December 18, 1927, emphasizes that the OBERKA - G.P.U. works under the banner of the unity of the strengthening of the Party. Professor ~~Pokrovsky~~ leaves it to the OBERKA to answer "what is easier: struggle against the centralized counter-revolution of the period of civil war or struggle against the dispersed counter-revolution of our days, beginning with absolutely incurable members of the 'black-hundred' and gradually, almost imperceptibly, proceeding to persons declaring themselves Communists, who probably yesterday were members of the Party and Communist Youth organizations... The G.P.U., formerly VORSHKA, is a necessary and indispensable weapon of the dictatorship of the proletariat. It is one of our most vital political organizations and that is why it is absurd to accuse the G.P.U. of interfering in our intra-Party struggle. In revolution one distinguishes a friend from a foe, not by documents, but by deeds. Those who increase the innumerable mass of anti-Bolshevik elements, no matter under what disguise they act, are enemies of the proletarian dictatorship and the one who assumes such role must not complain if the blows of the battle-hammer of this dictatorship fall on his head".

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Describing the type of a Chekist, Koltsov gives this injunction: "and his image, always watchful, always on the alert, always protecting us, must not be forgotten by anybody, when the Party or the Soviet power has sent to these or those posts..." (Moscow PRAVDA, No. 290, December 18, 1927.)

Koltsov in the PRAVDA, No. 290, December 18, 1927, assured that "the final battle with the world bourgeoisie is still ahead and the heir of the CHEKA, the O.G.P.U., will still have a great deal of work..." G. Moros says in the same copy of the PRAVDA that "the word Chekist has become a word comprehensible to and beloved of the proletariat of the entire world..." The future field of work of the O.G.P.U. in the entire world because, as Bukharin says in his article devoted to the "first Chekist", Dzerzhinsky, (PRAVDA, No. 290, December 18, 1927.), "in any case our general will have to live through great events, which will radically change the whole face of the capitalist world... The proletariat must win from it (the world bourgeoisie) the entire earth for genuine creative labor..." Yemshilov in the order issued by him in connection with the anniversary declares: "The Revolutionary Military Soviet of the Union S.S.R. congratulates the troops and organs of the O.G.P.U. upon the tenth anniversary of their glorious existence, and expresses its firm conviction in their future self-denying work for the cause of the proletariat, for the cause of the

-16-

World revolution".

In the meantime, the O.S.P.U. will continue its work on the territory of the Soviet Union. Pokrovsky in Moscow Pravda, No. 290, December 18, 1927, considers the O.S.U. "an indispensable weapon of the dictatorship of the proletariat" because "the struggle which was begun 10 years ago is not yet finished and will not come to an end as long as the counter-revolution has its class base". Ulrich in the IZVESTIA, No. 290, December 18, 1927, states that "attempts at new terroristic actions are quite probable. Espionage of foreign intelligence services displays a tendency to multiply. Inside the country there have sprung up groups with anti-Soviet feelings. The time has not come to lay down arms."

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

P.W.B. COLEMAN.

## Enclosures:

- 1/ Order of the United State Political Administration.  
(IZVESTIA, No. 290, December 18, 1927.)
- 2/ Order of the Revolutionary Military Council of the Union of S.S.R.  
(IZVESTIA, No. 290, December 18, 1927.)
- 3/ Order No. 412, of the Revolutionary Military Soviet of the Union of S.S.S.R. to the personnel of the Army dated December 16, 1927.  
(IZVESTIA, No. 290, December 18, 1927.)

In quintuplicate.  
Copy to E.I.C. Paris.  
Copy to E.I.C. Paris for Peking.  
MMS/vm

Enclosure No.      to despatch No. 15031

TITLE: Order of the United State Political Administration.

SOURCE: Moscow IZVESTIA, No. 290, December 18, 1927.

No. 251. December 17, 1927.

The Collegium of the United State Political Administration congratulates all comrades in its work, cheka-battlers, upon the tenth anniversary of the victorious struggle for the defense of the proletarian dictatorship.

The All-Russian Extraordinary Commission - United State Political Administration has marched during ten years from victory to victory against the enemies of the Soviet authorities both during the civil war and in conditions of the new economic policy (nep): whoever was in the way of the proletarian dictatorship - be it speculator, bandit, person engaged in sabotage, white guard, spy, finally yesterday's comrade but to-day the worst enemy and traitor, no matter what task the Communist party imposed upon the cheka agents - they threw themselves self-denyingly into battle, clearing the U.S.S.R. from Mensheviks and Social-Revolutionaries, Anarchists and bandits, disclosed the most cunning plots of foreign spies, annihilated the whiteguards and terrorists, using every means from terror to the force of Communistic ideas - and gained the victory.

No wonder!

Lenin, the creator, ~~Dzerzhinsky~~, the organizer,  
the Central Committee of the All Union Communist Party

-2-

(Bolsheviks), the leader, and the working classes the support of the All-Russian Extraordinary Commission - United State Political Administration.

October has cut down the landowner and the capitalist at the root, and the Cheka hand in hand with the Red Army had only to uproot and burn them of the ground entirely, along with the wreckage of the petty-bourgeois social-traitor parties.

Clearing the field for the construction work of socialism, the CHEKA worked for ten years without any interruption, day and night, without any rest sparing neither the enemy, nor itself.

Our sacrifices are countless. First fell from a bullet from behind the corner, the unforgettable Uritsky; a genuine cheka death died Dzerzhinsky in the heat of battle, that first leader of the armed section of the Party, felled by death in a half-spoken speech, when he was uniting the opposition.

Heavy are our losses, but the school of Dzerzhinsky and the countless examples of heroic loyalty to the Party and to Communism given by the rank and file combatants of the All-Russian Extraordinary Commission - United State Political Administration, made it the unconquerable organ of the proletarian dictatorship.

Before new battles with counter-revolution, instigated by foreign imperialists, the collegium of the United State Political Administration expresses its assurance that the comrades-checkists will be able also

-2-

in the future to defend the dictatorship against all the enemies of the labor class -following the example of the cheka battlers that have fallen for Communism.

President of the United State Political  
Administration; MRNZHINSKY.

Enclosure No.      to despatch No.

**TITLE:** Order of the Revolutionary Military Council  
of the Union of S.S.R.

**SOURCE:** Moscow IZVESTIA, No.290, December 18, 1927.

December 18, 1927.      No.629.      Moscow.

The Revolutionary Military Council of the U.S.S.R. sends its most ardent greetings in the name of the Labor-Peasant Red Army on the day of the tenth anniversary of the organs of the United State Political Administration to its companion in arms in defense of the proletarian state.

The United State Political Administration is the successor of the All-Russian Extraordinary Commission, created during the first months of the October Revolution for struggle against its enemies - the exploiting classes. The All-Russian Extraordinary Commission remained during all the hard years of civil war a fearless defender of the interests of the workmen and peasants against the plots of the foreign and internal counter-revolutionaries, and the true guard of the Soviet country. To the fierce terror of the capitalists and landowners against the young, not yet sufficiently vigorous, power of the workmen and peasants, the All-Russian Extraordinary Commission answered with an organized and plan governed struggle, catching the traitors and secret foes, disclosing and cutting short the numerous underhand dealings and plots. The All-Russian Extraordinary Commission has let fall its sword self-denyingly and mercilessly upon those that were

-2-

trying to blow up the revolution from within and to land a blow upon the back of the revolutionary troops. The victory of the Red Army was possible only under the condition of protection of its rear by the self-denying and heroic work of the organs of the All-Russian Extraordinary Commission.

In the years of peaceful work the United State Political Administration directs its blows against all/ who treacherously and with disorganising actions are causing difficulties in the victorious constructive work of socialism. Kulaks and neyemen, embezzlers and pillagers of public funds, spies and bandits - all the punitive hand of the United State Political Administration reaches and lays by the heels. And when world imperialism, organising new attacks against the Soviet Union, sends/ one terroristic band after another against our country, it meets on its way the granite wall of the United State Political Administration, against which all its plans and designs are smashed to pieces.

These great merits before the labor revolution have been justly noted by the Central Executive Committee which has conferred the order of "Red Banner" upon the United State Political Administration - the symbol of the world socialistic revolution.

The Revolutionary Military Council of the U.S.S.R. congratulates the troops and organs of the United State Political Administration upon the tenth anniversary of its glorious existence and expresses strong



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confidence in its further self-denying work for the cause of the proletariat, for the cause of the world revolution.

Eternal memory to those that have perished as heroes and martyrs at their difficult posts - to the collaborators of the All-Russian Extraordinary Commission and of the United State Political Administration!

Long live the vigorous and stern sword of the proletarian dictatorship, the true friend of the workmen and peasants - the United State Political Administration!

People's Commissar of Military and Naval Affairs  
and President of the Revolutionary Military  
Council of the U.S.S.R.

Enclosure No.      to despatch No.

**TITLE:** Order No. 412 of the Revolutionary Military Soviet of the Union of S.S.R. to the personnel of the Army dated December 16, 1927.

**SOURCE:** Moscow IZVESTIA, No. 290, December 18, 1927.

(Translation.)

1. There is announced hereby a resolution of Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of S.S.R. of December 14, 1927.

The All-Russian Extraordinary Commission for Struggle Against Counter-Revolution, Speculation and Crime, established at the very height of the severe struggle of the Soviet power with the class enemies of the revolution, has always discovered and thwarted, according to its duty, all the attempts of the secret and open enemies of the toilers, directed to the destruction of the dictatorship of the proletariat and dealing a treacherous blow in the rear of the Soviet state and above all in the rear of the heroic Red Army.

The immensely difficult and self-sacrificing work of the All-Russian Extraordinary Commission is now being continued by its successor - the Joint State Political Administration, through whose unceasing watchfulness have been discovered and thwarted all the attempts of the internal and external enemies of the Union of S.S.R., who by means of treachery, espionage, banditry and various counter-revolutionary actions, have tried to destroy the might of the Union.

Therefore, in celebration of the tenth anniversary of the organ of the dictatorship of proletariat for struggle against counter-revolution, the

-2-

Central Executive Committee of the Union of S.S.R. confers the order of the "RED BANNER" upon:

I. The Joint State Political Administration, attached to the Soviet of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R.;

II. The Vice-President of the Joint State Political Administration of the Union of S.S.R., Comrade Yagoda, Henry Grigorievich, a most active worker and one of the leaders of the All-Russian Extraordinary Commission and the Joint State Political Administration, who, during the gravest situation in the Soviet State, has shown rare energy, activity and self-sacrifice in the cause of the struggle against counter-revolution;

III. The Vice-President of the Joint State Political Administration of the Union of S.S.R., Comrade Trilisser, Meyer Abramovich, who especially cooperated in strengthening the dictatorship of the proletariat with his unlimited courage, devotion to the cause of the revolution and indefatigability in pursuing the enemies of the revolution, and who has rendered especially valuable services in the struggle against counter-revolutionary, espionage, bandit, and other, organizations hostile to the Soviet power;

IV. The workers of the Joint State Political Administration of the Union of S.S.R. mentioned below, who have especially cooperated in strengthening the dictatorship of proletariat with their unlimited courage, devotion to the cause of revolution and

indefatigability in pursuing the enemies of the revolution, and who have rendered especially valuable services and have accomplished military exploits in the struggle against counter-revolutionary, espionage, bandit, and other, organizations hostile to the Soviet Power -

\* Abinsalev, I.S.

\* Agranov, Ya. S.

\* Belsky, Z.N.

\* Berman, M.P.

\* Blagotravov, G.I.

\* Deribas, T.D.

\* Dombrovsky, V.R.

\* Fomin, F.T.

\* Fornaister, A.R.

\* Gendin, S.G.

\* Gelova, G.V.

\* Grodin, G.V.

\* Karpenko, P.I.

\* Katonskoon, Z.B.

\* Khrustalev, G.V.

\* Kirillov, F.P.

\* Komarov, M.P. (Present President Leningrad Oblast Executive Committee and Leningrad Soviet.)

\* Korytov, V.A.

\* Kramin, F.M.

\* Kvitashvili, V.D.

\* Lobov, S.S. (Present President Supreme Council National Economy R.S.F.S.R.)

\* Mayer, L.N.

\* Nazarov, A.M.

\* Pankov, K.B.

\* Peters, Ya. H.

\* Rybkin, A.I.

\* Sankovich, B.I.

\* Sotnikov, F.I.

\* Val, S.D.

\* Yusis, I.F.

\* Zalim, L.D.

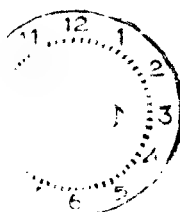
\* Zhakov, K.S.

Vice-Commissioner of Military and Naval Affairs and Vice-President of the Revolutionary Military Soviet of the U.S.S.R.: UNSCHLIENT.

Riga,

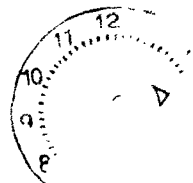
May 3, 1930.

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~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~

61-3499-25

No. 6250

RECORDED

The Honorable,

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

JUL 2 1930

JUN 3

Sir:

1/ I have the honor to enclose ~~translation~~  
deposition which was made to the L  
by one Edward ~~Maeller~~, an Estonian on  
present is under arrest in Riga pending  
charge of espionage for the Soviet Co

-2-

1577

In handing the paper to Mr. Lohre, a member of my staff, Mr. Oselins, Chief of the Latvian Political Police, intimated that he attaches considerable importance to Mueller's statements inasmuch as, in his opinion, they unequivocally confirm the fact that the OGPU, a department of the Soviet Government, is actively engaged in espionage in foreign countries, and reveal furthermore some of the methods which the OGPU employs in that work.

Mr. Oselins appeared to be particularly impressed by Mueller's revelation that the Leningrad branch of the OGPU and some Soviet institution in Moscow were printing and issuing passports and money of foreign countries. Mueller confessed that the Latvian passport bearing the name of Peter Peterson, which was found on him when he was arrested in Latvia, was a forgery and that it was issued to him at Leningrad by an official of the OGPU. The Latvian State Printing Office (the institution which prints Latvian passport blanks), to whom the above-named passport was submitted for examination, is of the opinion that it is a very carefully made forgery, executed abroad in a properly equipped paper-making and printing establishment, and believes that the Soviet bank note and government paper printing office GOZNAK in Moscow is technically able to turn out such work.

The Estonian Minister in Riga informed me a few days ago that Mr. Mueller, during the course of the cross-examination to which he was subjected by the Latvian Political Police, stated that he was told by his instructors

in the OGPU Intelligence School at Leningrad that the Soviet Government maintains an agent in every important diplomatic mission in Riga.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Louis Bussdorff, Jr.  
Charge d'Affaires a.i.

Enclosure:

1. "Deposition made by Edward Mueller, alleged communist spy, to the Latvian Political Police."

LS/mhg

A true copy  
of Bessie  
original

DEPOSITION MADE BY EDWARD MUELLER,  
ALLEGED COMMUNIST SPY  
TO THE LATVIAN POLITICAL POLICE.

(Translation)

At an examination held on March 6, 1930, in the Political Administration, Edward, son of Martin, Mueller (an Estonian citizen, born at Riga on June 14, 1907) made the following deposition:

"I am an Estonian citizen and am domiciled in the city of Verro. My parents always live in Riga, and at present occupy the position of janitors at Brivibas iela 126. I was born at Riga. From 1916 to 1926 I lived together with my parents at Verro, Estonia, but in 1926 we returned to Latvia. In 1925 I graduated at Verro from a secondary school, and from 1926 to 1928 worked at Riga as a physical education instructor in the YMCA and "Workmen's Sport and Guard". In 1928 I was unemployed and as such worked in public enterprises established for the unemployed workers. In 1929 I was elected as a delegate of the unemployed to present their petitions to the Prime Minister. At the Prime Minister's an incident took place as a result of which I, as a foreigner, was expelled from Latvia, and I went to Estonia. There I was immediately called for military duty. At first I served in Reval in the 10 Infantry Regiment, and after I was transferred to Narva to the 1 Infantry Regiment. On September 7, 1929, I deserted and secretly crossing the frontier went to the USSR. Until my desertion from the army, I had not committed a single crime in Estonia. I deserted for the reason that I did not wish to serve. Upon crossing the

frontier



frontier I presented myself to the Soviet frontier guard section chief. The latter arrested me and handed me over to the office of the Commandant at the river Luga, about 60 km. from Kingisep (formerly Yamburg). On the following day, i.e., September 8, 1929, I was taken to Kingisep and handed over to the OGPU of the frontier guard of the Kingisep section. I was kept there for about 10 days, whereupon I was taken to the Leningrad OGPU. The chief of the Kingisep OGPU is Tsinitis, a Lett, while his assistant is the Russian who formerly was the chief of the OGPU agent Nikitin who deserted to Latvia (apparently Verensichik). In Kingisep I was examined by an OGPU agent Stepanov. I was questioned mostly about the Estonian army, about the 1st and 10th Regiments in which I had served, about their composition, armament, economic condition, morale of soldiers and officers, etc. Further I was questioned about the internal economic and political conditions in Estonia. Nothing was asked about Latvia. The examination lasted for several days. During the examinations, I repeatedly emphasized that I wished to remain and work in the USSR. After the examination was over, I was made the offer to enter into the service of the OGPU, which I accepted. Everyone who secretly runs over to the USSR, when caught, is charged with espionage. Such persons are usually kept in confinement for a long period until finally they are exiled to some place or sent to do convict work. If it is found impossible to prove that the man has come to the USSR as a spy, he is offered to enter the service of the OGPU, and is then sent to the country

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country from which they had come, and finally are offered to enter into the service of the OGPU and become a Soviet spy. Such persons are first given a course of instruction and then are sent to spy either into their own or some other suitable country. Those who refuse to become spies are sent to do compulsory work which is very hard. When I was enrolled in Kingisepp into the OGPU service I was clearly told that I would have to go as a spy either to Estonia or to Latvia. In Kingisepp I was kept in confinement for about 10 days, when I was taken to the OGPU in Leningrad. In Leningrad I was kept in the prison on Volodarsky Street. There I was again severely questioned whether I had not come to the U.S.S.R. as a spy and was threatened that the worst would happen to me if some suspicion against me were to arise. The first examinations in that prison were made by Bogdanov, the director of the prison, and by Shorts, his assistant, both of whom are Letts. I was brought to Leningrad by Tsinitis, Chief of the Kingisepp OGPU. After I had been examined in Leningrad, Bogdanov ordered me to write my autobiography and to state the places of residence and occupation of my relatives. I did as told and handed my autobiography to Bogdanov. A few days later I was visited in prison by Mart Meier, chief of external intelligence in Latvia and Estonia, of the Leningrad OGPU. He did not question me concerning my former life and occupations, but talked about my future work - espionage -, inquired whether I was brave enough and pointed out that espionage is very dangerous work, involving even life risk.

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He also inquired about my health, etc. Meier informed me that I would be given espionage instruction, whereupon I would have to go as a spy to Estonia or Latvia. Mart Meier is an Estonian, 27 years old. In 1924 he was in Estonia where at that time he attended the military school. He was one of the leaders of the attempted communist coup d'etat of December 1924. During that uprising Meier killed in the cadet school the cadet and assistant of the officer-on-duty Tomsen and wounded the officer Pesor who at present is serving in the 10th infantry regiment in Reval. In Estonia Meier is known under the name of "Mat". The chief of the OGPU in the Leningrad military district is the Lithuanian Petrushevitch. His assistant is the Lett Arthur Riter. The division of external intelligence of the OGPU against Finland is headed by the Russian Petrovsky (his father is said to be a professor in the Academy of Science). Petrovsky is known as "Vulodia". Amongst those working in the OGPU are one Sukhev, a Schroeder and other minor employees. In the Finnish division there is one Zinoviev who is charged with important work. At one time Riter attended school in Wenden together with Edwin Pednis, the present editor of the newspaper "Latvijas Karaivis". After my conversation with Meier I was given a little more freedom in prison. I was permitted to get newspapers, etc. I was in confinement in Leningrad for a total of 11 days. The day I was set free I was called into the office where I was told that I was free and was given new clothes, and told that I would have to live with Mart Meier who came for me to the prison. After having established myself at Meier's, I was considered free and was issued an identity certificate

in

in which it was stated that I am an official of the  
Leningrad OGPU, of class 5. Meier told me that my  
course of instruction would begin in a few days and  
that I could take a rest until then. I was given tickets  
to cinemas and theatres. Together with Meier I visited the  
War Museum. In Meier's apartment I was given a small room.  
My breakfast and supper I took with Meier, but for my  
dinners I was sent to the Detski-Selsky station, for  
which Meier used to give me money. Meier lived on  
Rozovsky Street No. 2, apartment 8. In a week's time,  
about the middle of October, Meier ordered me to go to  
the school where courses are held for external intelligence  
agents. The course of instruction lasted for four months.  
They were held in the same house where Meier lived: Rozov-  
sky Street No. 2, but the entrance is from Zagorodni Pros-  
pect No. 54. In my OGPU certificate I was given the name  
of Ludwig Linal. The number of regular pupils attending  
the course amounted to 17, but frequently people came to  
attend some special subject and the total number of pupils  
was sometimes as many as 25. I do not know the exact  
number of Letts, Estonians and Finns among the pupils.  
Neither do I know any of their names, for all of us had  
assumed names. The lectures were held in Russian but those  
who did not have sufficient command of Russian were allowed  
to study in their own language. The pupils were re-  
peatedly cautioned not to close friendships with each  
other, not to assemble or be seen together. It was  
recommended to keep away from each other. The pupils  
live separately, in most cases in apartments of OGPU  
officials. School hours were from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The  
total

total number of teachers (lecturers) was 8. Their names were never mentioned and they were referred to as numbers 1 to 8. The course opened with lectures on the history of espionage, from antiquity to modern times. Special attention was devoted to the French intelligence service, next came the British and that of other countries. Particular attention was given to the work in Russia of the British "General Service" and of Major Kent. The diary of Major Kent was even published, and one was obliged to read and later discuss it. This subject was taught by lecturer No. 4, a middle-aged man. The history of espionage embraced also reviews of the importance and purpose of espionage. After history came several special military subjects, e.g. aviation, infantry, artillery, navy, forts, etc. Each of these subjects was gone through very thoroughly: it was explained what kind of information was sought to be obtained, and the relative importance of the mentioned subjects. The instruction given in these subjects was not only theoretical but also practical. The pupils were taken to visit aviation, artillery and naval units, and forts, and there were trained to distinguish the various types of automobiles, aeroplanes, equipment, armament, signals, etc. The theory of communism was not taught. After the special subjects, the pupils were taught how a spy should work, how spies are recruited, how information is collected. Instruction was given in makeup, methods of insuring secrecy, safe-keeping of information obtained, use of codes, secret meetings, photographing documents, making copies of documents and plans, etc. In addition to the above-mentioned lecturers, known

as numbers 1 to 3, lectures were also held by Arthur Riter, Mart Meier, Petrushevitch and Petrovsky. Riter's subject was photography of documents, copying of plans, and use of codes. Meier taught conduct in town and village, when traveling, etc. Petrushevitch's lectures consisted of examples of how some spies worked, how a spy should begin his work, etc. Petrovsky lectured on the navy, coast guard and forts. Pupils, further, received training in handling motor boats and automobiles, and were taught to shoot a revolver. In history, lectures mention was made of the desertion of the OGPU official Nikitin to Latvia and of his betrayal of the OGPU organization. Nikitin's action was severely censured and it was pointed out to the pupils that it is the duty of every OGPU agent to kill Nikitin at the first convenient opportunity. Particular attention was given to coast guard in Estonia, to the island Ruus, etc. Furthermore, the work of spies in war time was analyzed. In school as well as in private conversations responsible officials of the OGPU repeatedly pointed out that spies should be prepared to work under war conditions, for war is inevitable and is expected in the nearest future. Meier drew up for me a whole plan of attack on Estonia. He said that the 1st infantry regiment stationed at Narva and the 7th infantry at Pechory and Verro should not be regarded as a formidable force. An energetic attack carried out with tanks, artillery and air fleet could annihilate these regiments in a few hours. It has been figured out that in case of war the Baltic States could be occupied in 36 hours, as the English with their fleet could not come earlier than several days when it would be too late. Careful studies

are

are already made of Estonian ammunition depots at Mustamäe (near Tallinn), Harku and Tapa, and of Latvian depots at Riga near the Wood Cemetery, at Libau and other places. These depots are to be destroyed with the help of spies and aeroplanes immediately upon the outbreak of hostilities. The Government of the U.S.S.R. holds the view that its foremost military task is the annihilation of the Baltic States which are of great international importance to the U.S.S.R., being exits to the Baltic Sea and a possible base for the Great Powers. It is invariably emphasized that independence of the Baltic States is undesirable for the U.S.S.R. and that by conquering and putting an end to the Baltic States the Communist will obtain the desired exit to the Great Powers. In view of this the U.S.S.R. is energetically preparing for the war which is to be directed against the Baltic States at the first convenient opportunity. In these preparations it is emphasized that the invasion of the Baltic States is an easy matter if it is done so rapidly as to make it impossible for the Great Powers to come to their help. In addition to an attack from outside, great stock is laid on the activities of spies and Communists in Latvia itself. Hence much attention is devoted to the training of all spies to work under war conditions. Responsible officials of the OGPU, such as Meier, Riter, etc., have told me that arms are already being secretly sent to Latvia and that separate fighting units are being organized there whose duty it will be to bring about an armed uprising at the given moment, start terroristic work, etc. Meier told me that now they will not be as simple as they were

were in 1924 when the putsch in Estonia took place, and that now they were making much more serious preparations. When I was sent to Latvia, Petrushevitch, Riter and Meier instructed me to find several absolutely safe secret apartments for use as bases for Soviet spies, where the spies could stop and also where explosives and arms could be stored. I was to make a particular effort to find such apartments around Kreutzburg, Maricaburg and several other places. Why that was necessary I do not know but I have been repeatedly told that in the near future a considerable expansion of espionage is to take place around Kreutzburg, that secret lodgings would be needed there and that armed fighting units would be organized there. Riter and Meier instructed me that on May 30, June 15 and June 20 I was to have a meeting at 12 noon at the third bridge on the road from Kreutzburg to Alushki. In the school as well as when about to leave for Latvia, it was impressed upon me that the espionage work should be closely connected with the Communist movement, and that this condition should be particularly strictly observed in war time. But even at present I was ordered when recruiting spies and collecting information to do that as far as possible through persons possessing recommendations from the Communist organizations and free of suspicion by the Latvian political police. This pertains particularly to the army in which persons suitable to be spies should be sought from among newly enrolled recruits belonging to Communist circles. The course of training prescribed each pupil the execution of some actual work. In the end of December 1929, immediately after



after Christmas I was ordered to cross over secretly into Estonia and to collect information on the cavalry regiment stationed at Dorpat. For that occasion a forged Estonian passport was prepared for me, bearing the name Ludwig Linal. The passport was a forgery (i.e. not a genuine Estonian passport) and one which had already been used several times. Only the photograph had to be changed: the picture of the previous user was torn off and mine inserted. I was taken across the Soviet-Estonian border by members of the Soviet frontier guard. On the Estonian side I was met by a peasant who took me with his horse through Narva to the station of Vaivara. There I took the train and went via Tams to Dorpat. The place where I crossed the frontier was near the village Lomig, about 10 to 12 kilometers from Narva. I do not know the name of the peasant who met me on the Estonian side. I spent 2 days in Dorpat and stopped at an acquaintance's of mine, Ulrich Heine, Alexander Street. While at Heine's I met a good friend of mine, Alexander Jurgenson who was then serving in the cavalry regiment. Jurgenson and Heine also knew each other and our first meeting was arranged by Heine and took place in the street. Thereupon Jurgenson came to Heine's and the same evening the three of us went to a cinema. During the course of a conversation I unobtrusively obtained from Jurgenson some information concerning the artillery regiment: the name of the commander, the number of horses and men, what kind of drill they have, etc. In addition I read through the Estonian military magazine "Lodich"

"Sedish" which contained a description of the anniversary of the cavalry regiment. I took some information from the magazine and compiled it with that obtained from Jurgensen, and submitted the result to Meier. The latter thought my trip was a success and declared me a talented agent. Heine and Jurgensen did not know the real reason of my trip. Neither did they know that I had come from the USSR and that I have a forged passport. I told them that I was en route and that I stopped over in Derpat to see them. I returned to Leningrad before the New Year. Returning I crossed the frontier not at the same place as I did going but somewhere near Isborsk. I do not know the exact name of the place. I was told of it in Leningrad by Meier. He told me that on a certain day a team would be waiting for me at the first station before Isborsk, which would take me to a house from where I would be taken across the frontier. After returning to Leningrad I attended school for another 3 weeks. That time was devoted to gas mask drill. The pupils, with mask and gloves on, were put into a gas chamber which was then filled with iprit, and in other cases with chlor gas. They were taught the use of fire arms and hand grenades in such gas filled chambers. A cat would be thrown in amongst them and instantaneously killed by the gas. We were also shown the effect of tear gas, which I think is called lousit. The training further included information concerning explosives and the manner of blowing up bridges and other structures. As far as I can remember the pupils were explained

explained the use of melonite, tritil and other modern explosives. We were also shown the gas mask of Dr. Biovarev, of which it was said that it is the best in the world, that it could be used when wearing eye glasses, and that it could be used in steam. We were explained the construction of various types of hand grenades and the methods of using them. Formerly I squinted with my right eye - an abnormality by which I could be easily recognized. Because of this I was made to undergo an operation in the military hospital and now I no longer squint. We had to work very hard in school, and at the end there were examinations. In the end of January 1930, 7 or 8 pupils who were considered to be particularly good and who were picked out to become organizers of intelligence agencies, were sent to Moscow for a final examination. They were accompanied by the lecturers and by several other persons whom I did not know. All in all the party consisted of about 20 persons. In Moscow we were taken to some sort of school where we were subjected to examinations. The examiners were responsible staff officers of the red army, with the 4-rhombus insignia. The examination committee consisted of 4 or 5 persons. The examinations in Moscow lasted two days. Afterwards we made a sight-seeing tour of Moscow and were taken 60 kilometers in an automobile to see some agricultural commune. After spending 5 days in Moscow, we returned to Leningrad and were considered as having graduated. The best pupils were given auditory certificates and a metal insignia bearing the red banner surrounded by a wreath. After graduating in February I was advised to take a rest, to go to theatres, cinemas,

etc.

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etc. In about a week Meier told me to get ready to go to Latvia for the purpose of espionage. I was given a Latvian passport and a military service certificate bearing the name Peter Peterson. The Latvian passport RA No. 000511/40951 and the military certificate No. 33853 given me were both forged. These forged documents were handed to me at the staff of the Leningrad OGPU, Uritsky Square 10, by the assistant chief of staff Riter in the presence of the chief of staff Petrushevitch, Meier and others. On that occasion Petrushevitch pointed out to me that I should always bear in mind who I was and what my duties were towards the country of workingmen, the USSR, and that I should be prepared to risk my life. The person in charge of preparing and issuing forged documents is Riter who for that purpose has a complete laboratory in the staff of the OGPU, in which forged seals and signatures are made, etc. The forged Latvian passport bearing the name of Peter Peterson was written out in Riter's office in my presence: there the necessary inscriptions were made concerning my person, my military service status, documents on strength of which the passport was issued, police registration, etc., and the required seals were impressed. It was in that same office of Riter's that I signed the passport and made my thumb prints. The passport itself, Riter told me, was made and painted in Moscow. I understand that the signatures on the passport were likewise made in Moscow. In the course of a conversation Riter told me that painting Latvian passports was an easy matter, that they even painted and issued Chinese money, which was a very difficult job.

Compared

Compared with it the manufacture of Lettish passports is quite easy. Riter, Meier and others told me on several occasions that they (the Soviets) were printing forged Chinese money. Some time in January, while I was in Riter's office, someone of his assistants was being sent to the State Bank for some foreign money. In reply to the question, what foreign money should be brought, Riter said that English pounds or some other exchange could do but not "these confounded dollars" with which one was sure to fall in. He referred to American dollars; the exchange was needed for a spy who was going abroad. In Moscow not only forged passports of Latvia, Estonia and other countries are manufactured, but likewise diplomatic passports. Meier told me that he himself had made trips abroad, among them to Latvia and Estonia, on various forged documents, and that on one occasion he travelled on a forged Bulgarian passport made in Moscow. At the same time that I was given a forged Latvian passport, I was also given instructions concerning my espionage work in Latvia. Meier told me that the first thing that I had to do upon my arrival in Riga was to find a secret lodging in which I could live and which could be used if necessary by other members of the espionage organization. In Latvia I was to organize an intelligence agency; in Estonia I was to plant a spy for the purpose of collecting information on coastal defense. In Latvia I was to make a collection of the latest publications, such as maps of Latvia and of various cities, books dealing with the army and militia, instructions and various statistical data. I was

to

to make a careful study of the port of Riga, of fare-ways, warehouses, railway lines, cranes, etc. Further, I was to obtain complete information about the island Rūne: the location of buildings, the names of its institutions and radio stations. Petrovsky explained to me in great detail that the island Rūne is of great military importance as a possible naval base in war time. My instructions further included the organization of espionage in the Latvian army, for which purpose I was to make use of communist sympathizers among young recruits. One of the most important special tasks given me was to obtain an influence over General Šepers, Commander of the Livland Division. Meier gave me a careful description of General Šepers, of his mode of life, his address, etc. It was said that Šepers drinks too much and likes women, and I was to make an effort to approach him from that side. It was also suggested that I see whether General Šepers's son could not be used. As a method of approach it was advised that a spy be planted among his friends. In general I was to use every possibility toward that end. The object of approaching General Šepers was to obtain secret plans, particularly material pertaining to mobilization or the mobilization plan itself. Furthermore, I was to find out all about the Ust-Dvinsk fortress, the Libau naval yard, the Riga-Puol railway, the building of new highroads, etc. I was to employ several assistants, some on a fixed monthly salary and others on piece work. It was repeatedly pointed out to me that I should preferably use women for espionage work. One of my most important tasks was

to obtain information concerning the Riga arsenal, to get a plan of it, a list of its staff, etc. Meier told me that in case of need I should apply directly to the Soviet official Shenshev in the Soviet Legation in Latvia. The latter, I was told, could supply me, if necessary, with money for purposes of espionage, and he would also accept to take for safekeeping plans, documents and other material for the transmission of which to the USSR there might not be an early opportunity and which, on the other hand, I might be afraid to keep in my lodging. To enable me to recognize Shenshev when I see him, I was shown in Leningrad a full-figure photograph of him. The person on the photograph which is shown to me now (Maeller is shown a photograph, No. 6585, of Vladimir Jesefovitch Shenshev, Consul General of the USSR in Riga) is the same person whose photograph was shown to me in Leningrad. If I wanted to see Shenshev I was to apply directly to the Soviet Legation in Latvia, and, if required, to tell him the number of my Nagau revolver, which was to serve as a password identifying me. Meier told me that Shenshev would be informed of my activity in Latvia. However, I was forbidden to apply to Shenshev for trifles; I was to apply to him only in most urgent cases. After graduating from the school, I was formally appointed an official of the OGPU, of class 5, and was given the right to wear the OGPU uniform, with the insignia of 5 squares. I was to receive 500 lats per month and the usual expenses. As soon as I graduated from the school in Leningrad I was given a Nagau revolver, the one which was found

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found on me when I was arrested on the border. On February 18 I left Leningrad to go to Latvia. I was seen off at the station by Riter, while Meier accompanied me as far as Sebezh. There we stopped at Beigraut's, alias Lukianov, a responsible official of the Sebezh OGPU. He is a Lett. We stayed there 8 days waiting for a favorable opportunity. We spent the time going shooting, etc. On February 20, we three, i.e. Meier, Beigraut-Lukianov and I, were taken by a horse to the frontier. When we reached Commandature I of the frontier defense we took the commandant with us and drove to a village which is about 2 kilometers from the frontier. There we took a certain peasant who was to set me over the frontier. We all drove as far as the wood close by to the frontier. Beigraut and the commandant went to the watch house to remove the red-army guards so that they should not see when I would be set across. Meier, the guide and I remained. I and the guide put on white overcoats so as not to be conspicuous. In the meantime Beigraut, the commandant and the chief of the watch-house inspected the border to see that no Latvian guards were watching. All being clear, I bid goodbye to everybody and received good-luck wishes, whereupon the peasant led me across the frontier to the village Dubino, Posinsk volost, where he turned me over to the family Vlasov. When parting, Meier, Beigraut-Lukianov and the others told me that should I happen to run into a Latvian frontier guard or some one else who would try to arrest me, I was obliged to defend myself to the last and

kill



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kill the Latvian frontier guard. My guide from the USSR was some kind of a relative of Vlasov and is called Semen. We crossed the frontier at 5 p.m. but reached the Vlasova only at midnight. I figure that Vlasov lives about 8 to 10 kilometers from the frontier. Semen together with my white overcoat was immediately taken by Vlasov back to the frontier. The next day I spent at Vlasov's. The following night Scraphim Vlasov drove me to Lidsen from where I proceeded to Riga. In the course of a conversation Vlasov told me that he had reared a good horse for these journeys and that the necessary money for that was obtained from the OGPU in the USSR. I understood Meier to say that in January 1930 he had sent to Latvia four spies, all officials of the OGPU. For my correspondence I was to use the following address: P. Heinz, Rensvaky Street 2, apartment 5. This is Meier's address and Heinz is the maiden name of his wife who is an Estonian. Her parents live in Estonia, at Peltsamaa, and if I understood correctly, are also used for the needs of the OGPU as a stepping place for spies. I arrived in Riga from Lidsen on February 22, and immediately upon arriving bought myself all the necessary clothes, from shoes, shirt and hat to a new suit. I took a taxi and went to Majorenhof, on the strand. There in the Hotel Jurmala I changed into the new things. My old clothes I asked the porter to send by rail to my parents in Riga. I received <sup>him</sup> from/the baggage receipt which I later gave to my parents. In the hotel I occupied room No. 26. The same evening I went in a taxi to see my parents and spent a short while with them. I did not walk at all but

used

used taxis all the time. In the evening I took a taxi to Dzirnavu Street when I told the driver to bring me a woman. He did so. Together with the woman we went to her place at Daugavpils Street 21, apartment 4. Later I learned that the woman's name was Aldona Veronika Lavinsky. Up to February 25 I lived in her apartment, and together with her went to Ludsen. In Ludsen we hired a cab and went to the Vlasovs in the village of Gubins, Piesinsu volost. Our cabman lives in Ludsen, Veksalnaia Street 68. We stayed about 2 days at the Vlasovs. On March 2, Afanasiy Vlasov drove us to the frontier. A short distance from the border, he stopped and explained to us the road across. In the very act of crossing the frontier we were arrested by Latvian guards. Approaching the frontier we were clad in white sheets and I had in my hand a loaded Nagan. Our delay at Vlasov's was caused by the fact that Vlasov was expecting the arrival of a courier from the USSR, an official of the OGPU. He told me that he was waiting for a man who was to bring to the espionage organizations its March mail. Meier and Lukianov told me that Vlasov was an old agent of the OGPU. His speciality was to convey to and from Latvia members of the espionage organization and material pertaining to the latter. Afanasiy Vlasov confirmed this to me. Afanasiy lives together with his brother who likewise works for the espionage organization. I left my personal belongings with Vlasov's wife, Anna, who likewise knew that I am an agent of the OGPU external intelligence. In the beginning Lavinsky knew nothing about me, neither who I am nor the purpose of my coming to Latvia.

Even

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Even when we left Riga on February 25 she did not know that I was returning to the USSR and intended taking her with me. Only when we arrived at Ludaen did I tell her that I had come from the USSR, that I was an OGPU agent and that I was returning to the USSR and intended to take her with me. Here I asked Lavinsky if she wished to follow me to the USSR. She agreed and asked what I was planning to do in the USSR. I replied that I would soon return to Latvia. Lavinsky said that she would return with me, that she would follow me wherever I went and that she would do whatever I told her. I told Lavinsky that I had a forged passport, and she asked me if she could not likewise get a forged passport and thus get rid of the name Lavinsky. My intention was to take Lavinsky to the USSR and to have her trained there and made into a useful member of the espionage organization. In Latvia I did not meet a single OGPU agent, and except Shenshev nobody was pointed out to me with whom I could establish contact or who was likewise working in the espionage organization of the OGPU. My instructions were to work independently and to establish my own espionage lines. I had no time to collect any information. It had been arranged that the material and information that I would collect would be forwarded to the USSR by special couriers of the espionage organization. My first meeting with one of these couriers was arranged by Meier for March 15th. I was to wait for him from 2 to 4 p.m. behind the railway bridge at Bullen, on the left side of the road, between the railway line and the first turning. I was told

told that the courier would be a man dressed in a black coat and hat and holding a cane in his hand. The courier was to recognize me by my brown suit. Such was the arrangement made in Leningrad. This courier was to give me instructions concerning further work and was to accept any information or material I might have obtained by that time. I repeat again that I spent in Riga, Latvia, only a few days, from February 22 to 25, and had no time to carry out any of the espionage work given me. As regards the pre-arranged meeting between Kreutzburg and Alushki, I was told that I would meet a courier there, a middle aged man with a large mustache, looking like a blacksmith. He was to hold a cane with a spiral cut in the back of the stick. I was not ordered to return to the USSR so soon and I did so on my own initiative with the purpose of taking Lavinsky there for the reason I already stated. Vlasov told me that when it was desired that his team be sent to meet an OGPU agent, a letter should be written to his relative Fedor Kraftching whose father is a member of their volost administration, and Kraftching would then forward the letter to Vlasov. As far as I understand, Kraftching is Vlasov's accomplice in taking OGPU couriers from the USSR to Latvia and back. In more important cases OGPU couriers and agents do not stop at Vlasov's for their house is considered to be too near the frontier. In such cases the couriers and agents are taken to OGPU posts about 25 kilometers from the frontier. I understood Feier and others to say that one such OGPU post is located in the same Posinsk volost. I believe the Vlasovs know where it

157 A  
is. In January 1930 Meier sent an agent to Latvia for espionage, who was known by the name of "Mikhail". As far as I could gather from Meier's conversations, "Mikhail" was set across the border in the region of Ostrov. When I was still in Leningrad, Meier, Riter and others mentioned in the course of a conversation with me that they had established a chain of posts in the frontier region of Latvia, at a distance of about 25 kilometers from the border; these posts, they said, are armed with machine guns, hand grenades, etc. These posts are used by them for OGPU work only in the most important cases. In the school in Leningrad the pupils were given some information regarding Soviet submarines. They were said to have been built in Kronstadt and to be the last word in engineering. These submarines are very fast and are able to dive very rapidly. We were likewise told of the latest machine guns which can shoot with the necessity of changing water.

I confirm that all I have said is the truth, that I have frankly related all and that I have not concealed anything I know.

The deposition has been read to me and is identical with the statements I made.

Edward Mueller

## FORMER OGPU AGENT REVEALS ACTIVITIES

His Stories of Soviet Secret  
Service Mystify Police and  
Press of Paris.

### TWO TALES OF KOUTIEPOFF

Man Who Called Himself American  
Had Been at Russian Embassy  
After the Kidnapping.

The Paris police and press are much mystified, credulous or incredulous over the revelations made almost daily in the first week of this month by Georges Agavekoff, a self-proclaimed former official of the Ogpu, or Russian secret police.

In the middle of June a man of undeclared Levantine origin, but signing an American name, George N—, and giving the United States as his nationality, registered at a small hotel in the St. Denis quarter of Paris. His passport, last visaed in Berlin, spoke of his yellow eye and coffee-colored complexion and his age as 40.

The St. Denis quarter, owing to its large Communist population, is under close observation by the police, but when his identification card had been examined little attention would have been paid to the newcomer had it not been that the Sûreté Générale, or National Detective Force, was on the watch for a man of exactly his description, named Georges Agavekoff, or Agabekov, whom they had heard had been dispatched by the Ogpu from Moscow, via Berlin, to assassinate Gregory Bessedovsky, the former counselor of the Soviet Embassy at Paris.

M. Bessedovsky had made a dramatic escape from the embassy last November after he had heard that he was to be conveyed in secret back to Russia, and since then he has been telling what he knew of the doings of the Ogpu to English and French newspapers. So agents of the Sûreté interviewed the mysterious George N— and then took him to headquarters for a conversation; they had not only recognized Georges Agavekoff from his description, but also a man whom they had seen coming and going at the Soviet Embassy in the Rue de Grenelle for a few weeks that followed the kidnapping of General Alexander Paul Koutiepoft last January.

Sent by Head of Ogpu.

At the headquarters of the Sûreté, George N— freely admitted that he was Georges Agavekoff and that he had actually been dispatched by the great Menjinsky, head of the Ogpu, to "liquidate" the troublesome Bessedovsky, and he produced papers proving these admissions. But other papers were produced and these showed that he was no longer connected with the Ogpu and that his order to dispose of Bessedovsky had been countermanded. On account of his second batch of papers and the things he related to the chef de la Sûreté, Georges Agavekoff was allowed to return to the St. Denis quarter, where his hotel chamber was soon after invaded by newspaper writers.

With one exception the papers of George N—, while doing their best to check up on the things he told their writers, accept his story at its face value. The exception is the Echo de Paris, which sent Jean Delage, well known for his anti-Bolshevik work and his searching investigation of the Koutiepoft case. As M. Delage was about to take leave of M. Agavekoff after interviewing him, the latter produced a pocket camera and took a snapshot of his guest—"just as a souvenir," he said.

Moreover, the Echo de Paris calls its readers' attention to the fact that the alleged former Ogpu man imparted to the police and to the reporters two contradictory stories in regard to the Koutiepoft affair: He is alleged to have told the police that the kidnapping was planned by Viljinsky, alias Ivanovitch, and confirmed the most generally believed story of the affair by saying that the victim had been put in a car by a false policeman, had been chloroformed and taken to the coast, where a ship waited to convey him to Russia.

But M. Agavekoff told the reporters the kidnapping of General Koutiepoft was not the work of the Ogpu at all, but that the head of the Russian Imperialists had thought best to disappear for private reasons. "The Ogpu does not consider him dangerous," he explained.

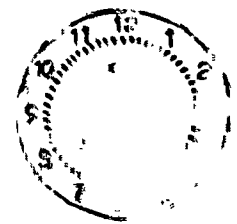
Was at Embassy in Paris.

"Yes," he told both police and reporters, "I was attached to the Ogpu at the time of Koutiepoft's disappearance; the organization has separate apartments at the embassy in the Rue de Grenelle. And I was there for three or four weeks after that event. All the time we were very much disturbed. On Jan. 30, one of our men came in and said that he had overheard two police officials conversing in a café and that the Ogpu apartment in the embassy was to be raided that night with warrants from the Minister of Justice.

"As we knew they could not know our apartment from the others in the embassy, we ran for our revolvers and all the doors were bolted. Some of us rushed off to burn codes and documents. His Excellency told us there was absolutely no danger. That quieted us. But a loud knock at the front door produced a speechless panic. It was only a man from a department store come to deliver a bundle."

According to M. Agavekoff's published interviews, he succeeded M. Blumkin, who assassinated Count Mirbach, the German Ambassador to Russia, in 1918. M. Blumkin, he said, was recalled last year from the Near East headquarters at Alexandria, Egypt, for having communicated with Trotsky without either the orders of M. Menjinsky or the permission of Joseph Stalin, and he was shot in November. Thus M. Agavekoff became the Ogpu agent in Turkey, Greece, Palestine, Egypt and Syria. He said he spent most of his time in Egypt, but was ordered elsewhere, as Moscow had found a way of procuring all the correspondence between the High Commissioner and the government in London without his aid. He was next ordered to India, via Berlin and Paris.

He was asked how it was that the Ogpu was able to intercept the correspondence between Cairo and Downing Street and he replied: "Oh, I am saying that." Asked if he did not fear the Ogpu, now that he had become a turncoat, he said: "I have friends who will inform me when it is necessary to move on." To the question, "Why did you leave



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New York  
Times.

July 20, 1930

Div. Four



25

the OGPU?" he answered smilingly: "I am writing a book and I do not wish to be bothered by official orders."

#### Questions His Sincerity.

M. Agavekoff's most complete statement was given to M. Delage of the Echo de Paris, who asks at the end of his story of July 2: "How far can M. Agavekoff's conversion from bolshevism be considered sincere?" What he quotes M. Agavekoff as having imparted about Egypt and India runs as follows:

"As chief of the OGPU for the five Mohammedan countries I was closely connected with Egypt. I was appointed to this post in October, 1929. My first task was to weed out other agents guilty of 'pinkness' and replace them by men of approved extremist views. All the information needed by Moscow about Egypt was, however, obtained direct from the correspondence between the British High Commissioner and the Foreign Office, copies of which were received with unfailing regularity at the Kremlin. It was therefore finally considered unnecessary to have a man on the spot. . . ."

"The chief business of the OGPU abroad just now is to carry on secret warfare against the British Empire in the East. This was the principal part of my work in the Near East."

M. Delage asked: "Is it true that the revolutionary movement in India is organized from Moscow?"

M. Agavekoff answered: "Of course it is. My last orders were to take me to India and to organize the work of the OGPU there when the news of the Bessedovsky scandal was telegraphed to Moscow and I was ordered to go to Paris and 'liquidate' the offender. But the next day they decided not to suppress him, as he had told all he knew. . . ."

In reply to another question the ex-OGPU man said: "At Istanbul I had no relations with the Soviet Consul, did not even know him—that is, personally. There are, however, OGPU sections in the Soviet embassies and consulates which work independently. While at Istanbul I transmitted my reports to Moscow through the head of this department at the consulate. All OGPU agents make use of the Soviet diplomatic mails in order to obtain immunity."

Article entitled  
"Former OGPU  
Agent Reveals  
Activities."  
(continued)

New York  
Times

July 20, 1930.

Material passage incorporated  
in Francisco's report  
on Radical Elements in  
N.Y. & abroad.

W  
✓  
RW:KP

August 8, 1950

61-3499-26

~~Confidential~~

AUG 9 1950

Mr. Robert F. Kelley,  
Chief, Division of Eastern European Affairs,  
Department of State,  
Washington, D. C.

61-3499

Dear Mr. Kelley:

From a strictly confidential source  
I have obtained information to the effect that Orapen,  
Secretary of the Amtorg, has no connection with the G.P.U.

It is also reported that one Coles is a  
member of the G.P.U. He was assigned to that organization  
while he was in Russia. It is reported that he returned to  
Russia from the United States, where he was formerly head  
of the Central Bureau Technical Aid to the U. S. S. R.  
After a few months of training in Russia with the G.P.U.,  
Coles was sent back to the United States as a member of the  
G.P.U., and it is alleged that he still holds this position.  
According to information received, there is no such thing  
as a G.P.U. organization in the United States. Coles is  
engaged in spying on Russian immigrants. It is also reported  
that there is another member of the G.P.U. in the United  
States by the name of Finkelberg, who is assigned to "political  
and technical espionage". It is alleged that Finkelberg was  
formerly the official courier between Moscow and Martenson  
when Martenson was in the United States. Finkelberg, it is  
reported, looks after members of all of the Soviet organiza-  
tions in the United States. It is also reported that  
political reports are obtained by Finkelberg from Boris  
Skvireky, Soviet Information Bureau, in Washington. Accord-  
ing to the information received from the confidential source  
there is no connection between Finkelberg and Coles. They  
work independently, although they are known to each other.  
It is reported that Coles holds an official position as  
manager of the "NOVY MIR".

Very truly yours,

For the Director,

  
Assistant Director.



Report

15762

July 30, 1930  
New York.Soviet Government activities

Because of talks in the press about the activities of the Soviet (secret police) in the United States I interviewed a few members of the Anarchy and Communist Party of U.S. and I find out that Grapper secretary of the Anarchy has no connections with the G.P.U. A member of the G.P.U. is one by the name of Golos. Golos was assigned to the G.P.U. when he was in Russia. (He came there from U.S. where he was prior to his departure for Russia the head of the Central Bureau Technical Aid to U.S.S.R.) after a few months of training in Russia in the G.P.U.

RECORDED &amp; INDEXED

AUG 6 1930

61-3499-26

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AUG 7 1930 A.M.

J.P.U.

Div. Four

FILE

Letter to  
Keller  
8-6-30  
R. 200

157 32

Golos was <sup>2-</sup> taken to the U.S. as a member of the J. P. U. which he still holds. There is not such a thing as a J. P. U. organization. Golos is spying on the Russian immigrants and there is another member of the J. P. U. by the name of Finnelberg ~~who~~ who is assigned to "political and technical espionage". Finnelberg used to be the official courier between Moscow and Martenson, when Martenson was in the U.S. Finnelberg also looks after members of all the Soviet organizations here. Political reports are gotten by Finnelberg from the ~~Russian~~ <sup>Soviet</sup> Embassy from the Bureau in Washington, the head of which is Boris Skirsky. But there is no connection between

157 E

-3-

Finrell and Golos. They work independently. although they know of each others activities. - informed by Golos. Golos's official position - manager "Golos mir"

"The Amtorg officials are very much disturbed with the recent investigation and unfavorable publicity the Amtorg is getting in the U.S." - told me Yartoff, a worker of the Amtorg. "In case the Amtorg will have to discontinue its doings in the U.S. could mean very bad for the Soviet Government, especially now when the Soviet government is carrying on the '5 year plan.' Bogdanoff, chairman of the Amtorg" told him that in case U.S. will put in effect the embargos on Soviet merchandise and the press will keep up longer a campaign against it <sup>the U.S.</sup> the American bankers and industrialists will get scared to deal

157-32  
with the [redacted] Govt [redacted] out and  
this may mean the serious crisis  
in the Soviet Union, where the only  
hope of the Soviet Government and  
of the masses are concentrated on  
the 5 year plan. Without the help  
of the U.S. the 5 year plan will fail  
and these will mean that the Soviet  
Government will have to combat  
the anger of the Russian masses.  
"It might even mean a counter  
revolution in many parts of the  
Soviet Union." - told me [redacted]

From

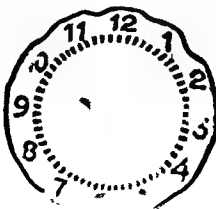
ASSISTANT CHIEF CLERK

to

OFFICIAL INDICATED BELOW BY CHECK MARK

Attorney General _____	Mr. Gardner _____
Solicitor General _____	Mr. Caldwell _____
Asst. to the Attorney General _____	Mr. Allison _____
Asst. Attorney General Sisson _____	Mr. Sornborger _____
Asst. Attorney General Richardson _____	Mr. Robb _____
Asst. Attorney General Youngquist _____	Mr. Bodholdt _____
Asst. Attorney General Rugg _____	Mr. Goetz _____
Asst. Attorney General _____	Mr. Kearney _____
Asst. Attorney General _____	Miss Fitzgerald _____
Mr. Hoover _____	Miss Waddle _____
Mr. Bates _____	

MEMORANDUM



DEC 15 1930

DEC 20 1930

DEC 19 1930 P. M.

Nathan

Div. Four

FILE

61-3499-27

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT12-12-30

Secretary of War  
 Assistant Secretary of War  
 Assistant Secretary of War (Air)  
 G-1  
 G-3  
 G-4  
 War Plans Division  
 Statistics Branch  
 Adjutant General's Dept.  
 Army Industrial College  
 Army War College  
 Air Corps (Liaison Officer)  
 Cavalry  
 Chemical Warfare Service  
 Coast Artillery Corps  
 Corps of Engineers  
 Command & General Staff School  
 Field Artillery  
 Finance  
 Infantry  
 Inspector General's Dept.  
 Insular Affairs  
 Judge Advocate General's Dept.  
 Militia Bureau  
 Office of Naval Intelligence  
 Ordnance Dept.  
 Quartermaster General's Dept.  
 Signal Corps  
 Surgeon General's Office

State Dept.:  
 Eastern Europe  
 Western Europe  
 Near East  
 Latin America  
 Far East  
 Mexican Affairs

Commerce Dept.:  
 Foreign & Domestic Commerce  
 Aeronautics

RECORDED

DEC 28 1930

For your information and file

Note and return

Note and send to

DEC 19 1930

DEC 20 1930

Nathan

Div. Four

G-2 Report

6010

R.S. 2037-1552  
16

RUSSIA (Political)

Subject: Executive Departments.  
ORGANIZATION AND METHODS OF THE O.G.P.U.

61-3499

The following information concerning the O.G.P.U. was received indirectly from G. S. AGABEKOV, one of the recent "renegades." "Renegades" is a term applied by the Bolsheviks to their former officials who have deserted. It has been stated that these desertions during the past two years have numbered 60 or 70 Soviet officials, all of whom were stationed abroad and found conditions at their stations so much more to their liking than in their own country that they deserted and joined the anti-bolshevik forces. Many of the desertions occurred as a result of orders to return to Moscow. See Report No. 7485, Index 3020.

For the past ten years AGABEKOV was connected with the work of the Foreign Division of the O.G.P.U. and until recently held the position of Chief of the Eastern Section of that Division. His last station was abroad.

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The headquarters of the O.G.P.U. and the dwellings of the personnel occupy the whole district between the Lubianka and Srietenska, an area of several square blocks in the heart of Moscow.

The O.G.P.U. personnel of the headquarters consists of about 2500 people, about 1500 of whom are members of the Communist Party, the rest being members of the Komsomol and people outside of communist organizations; these last, however, are employees of little or no importance, such as typists, clerks, etc.

The O.G.P.U. comprises the following divisions:

- 1) The Intelligence Division (KRO)
- 2) The Foreign Division (INO)
- 3) The Secret Division (SO)
- 4) The Separate Division
- 5) The Special Division
- 6) The Economic Administration (EKU)
- 7) The Information Division (INFO)
- 8) The Operative Division
- 9) The Eastern Division
- 10) The Frontier Defense Division
- 11) The Directing-Organizing Administration.

Moreover, there are the following subdivisions:

- a) Supplies Department
- b) Commandant Office
- c) Field Rifle Corps
- d) Cooperative Society
- e) Clubs for the members
- f) Printing
- g) Pri

THE INTELLIGENCE  
espionage within the  
among the population

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and the foreign diplomatic staff in Moscow. The servants in the employ of foreign diplomats and representatives are also supplied by this Division. It is divided into sections of which the most important are as follows:

- a) The FIRST SECTION supervises the hotels, theatres and restaurants, and perustrates the diplomatic correspondence.
  - b) The SECOND SECTION and c) the THIRD SECTION counteract the espionage of the Baltic States.
  - d) The FOURTH SECTION counteracts the espionage of the Eastern States.
  - e) The FIFTH SECTION counteracts the espionage of Great Britain, and America.
- etc.

Each of these sections has its own agents unknown to the other sections.

THE FOREIGN DIVISION is doing secret service work abroad. It supplies all the POLPRESTVOS (political representatives abroad) and more important consulates with semi-official agents of this division (called "residents"), who usually act as second secretaries or attaches, sometimes as officials of TORGPREDSTVOS (commercial representatives) and other Soviet institutions abroad. Apart from obtaining all kinds of information valuable to the Soviets, these agents have to supervise the Russian emigrants, to paralyze their organizations, to control the Soviet citizens residing abroad as well as the work of the various diplomatic and economic institutions.

Along with its official representatives, this division has in all countries illegal agents who live under assumed names with false passports. These agents enjoy special confidence and privileges. Their main object is to make friends in that particular country where they reside, to penetrate into various circles and, generally speaking, strengthen their position to such an extent as to be able to carry on the work of the official agents, should any complications prevent the latter from continuing their activities. These illegal agents are not in contact with the official agents and are usually unknown to them.

THE SECRET DIVISION conducts the work against the political parties opposed to the Soviet government, from Socialist-Democrats to Fascists, against tendencies within the Communist Party as well as against religion.

THE SEPARATE DIVISION supervises the work in the Army and Navy, keeping informed about the morale and stamina of the personnel through the commissars and political ranks. It also supervises the supply of food and ammunition and the proper protection of all kinds of military stores.

THE SPECIAL DIVISION has to protect state secrets from foreigners, to intercept foreign ciphers, to decipher foreign messages and to work out ciphers for all Soviet institutions at home and abroad.

The deciphering of foreign messages is done very well, and every week information to this effect is sent to all chiefs of the O.G.P.U. Divisions and to members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party.

This division also has to supervise all the prisons which are guarded by O.G.P.U. troops, as well as to prepare all kinds of false documents required for the work of the O.G.P.U.

THE ECONOMIC ADMINISTRATION has to deal with industrial, commercial and financial institutions of the U.S.S.R. with abuses in these enterprises, with reasons for the non-fulfilment of the plans and aims set, and with economic espionage at home.



THE INFORMATION DIVISION has to study the public opinion among all classes and circles of the population; it also acts as censor of literary and theatrical productions and perillustrates the general correspondence within the U.S.S.R.

THE OPERATIVE DIVISION supervises the persons in whom the O.G.P.U. takes an interest. To this division is subordinated the personnel of the Commandant, who have to make searches and arrests and who execute the persons condemned to death.

THE EASTERN DIVISION deals with matters pertaining to secret service work in the Eastern Soviet Republics.

THE FRONTIER DEFENSE DIVISION looks after the special O.G.P.U. troops and after the work of the custom houses, which are practically under the management of this division.

The other divisions and sub-divisions are of less importance, serving the above mentioned main divisions.

The O.G.P.U. has plenipotentiary agents in all important cities of the Soviet Republics. These agencies are organized, on a smaller scale, on the order of the headquarters in Moscow. The agents have branch offices in all smaller towns, covering the whole country with a net of O.G.P.U. informants. As an illustration of their power may be mentioned that about ten of the plenipotentiary agents have each a staff of secret agents whose aggregate number in Moscow alone exceeds 10,000. The various O.G.P.U. organizations are assisted by the detectives, so that not only Soviet institutions and their members, but also all foreigners residing or travelling in the U.S.S.R. are under close observation.

Officially, the O.G.P.U. is subordinate to the SOVNARKOM, but practically it is directed by the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party. Officially, the O.G.P.U. agents abroad are subordinate to the POLPREO (chief diplomatic representative); in fact, however, the authority of the former is greater than that of the latter and their correspondence with Moscow is subject to no control on the part of the POLPREO.

THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION is the Fourth Division of the Red Army Staff and collects information through their military attaches, as well as through independent illegal agencies in various countries which make use of the false documents prepared by the passport bureau of the Komintern.

Relations between the Military Intelligence Division and the O.G.P.U. are strained as the latter never misses an opportunity of doing purely military espionage work. Frictions on this basis have repeatedly brought up the question of liquidation of the Military Intelligence Division; however, the Central Committee of the Communist Party prefers to maintain both organizations for the purpose of mutual and more effective control.

There always has been and still is a fierce struggle going on between the O.G.P.U. and the Commissariat for Foreign Affairs as to their influence in the Political Bureau. This can be explained by the fact that, although the Commissariat should be responsible for all information and matters pertaining to foreign relations and politics, the Central Committee also gets independent information from the O.G.P.U. on all such questions. In the majority of cases, the information and the conclusions of the two institutions are at variance and, consequently, a deep antagonism has developed between them which is especially noticeable when officials of the Commissariat for Foreign Affairs have to be appointed for service abroad, in which case the sanction of the O.G.P.U. has to be obtained as to their political reliability.

The financial resources of the O.G.P.U. are difficult to estimate as, apart from the official allotments, it has a very considerable income from confiscated contraband and property and from its own undertakings, such as: apartment houses, cooperative societies, printing shops, etc.

The allotments for the Foreign Division are made in dollars and its financial organization is separate from that of the O.G.P.U. The money used abroad is paid through the Commissariat of Finance.

The communication between the O.G.P.U. and its foreign agents is kept up through the diplomatic couriers of the Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, but recent events in Afghanistan and China have shown that this system does not work when diplomatic relations are interrupted; therefore the O.G.P.U. has organized its illegal agencies abroad to keep up the work under any circumstances.

GEORGE E. ARNEMAN,  
Major, General Staff,  
Military Attache.

RECORDED  
AUG 18 1932

CAA:MSK  
-3499-28

August 17, 1932.

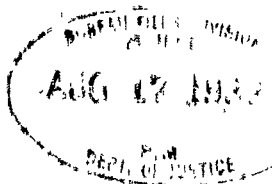
Mr. Robert F. Kelley, Chief,  
Division of Eastern European Affairs,  
Department of State,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Kelley:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of August 6, 1932, marked confidential, your reference EE 861.20211/13, and its enclosure, referring to information that Mr. Paul Casel, Mr. Gaisenstein, and Mr. Pierre Ossipovitch Lamasskovitch, alias Rengert, are said to be agents of the Soviet espionage service.

Sincerely yours,

Director.



3  
b6  
b7C

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

August 6, 1932.

In reply refer to  
EE 861.20211/13

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

No. 357.

61-3499

My dear Mr. Hoover:

There is transmitted herewith, as of possible interest, a translation of a communication which has been received from the Ambassador of France, conveying the information that Mr. Paul Casel, Mr. Gaisenstein and Mr. Pierre Ossipovitch Lamasskovitch, alias Rengert, are said to be agents of the Soviet espionage service. It is also stated that Mr. Casel and Mr. Gaisenstein are said to contemplate coming to the United States in the near future, and that Mr. Lamasskovitch is said to be in the United States at the present time.

Sincerely yours,

Robert F. Kelley

AUG 18 1932

Chief,  
Division of Eastern European Affairs.

Enclosure:  
Translation

J. Edgar Hoover, Esquire,

Director, Bureau of Investigation, AUG 12 1932 A.M.

Department of Justice,

Washington, D. C.

61-3499-28	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
AUG 12 1932 A.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
Div. Four	FILE

Not Secret Service Agents  
O. B. P. W.

Level 1  
R. S.  
J. G. Jones  
mx

**Department of State**

BUREAU  
DIVISION

**EZ**

**ENCLOSURE**

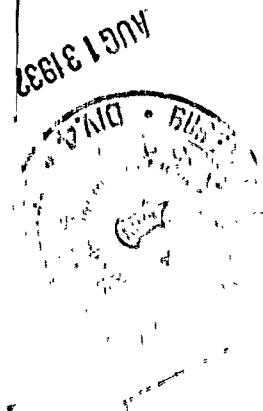
**TO**

**8-6-32**

**Letter drafted**

**ADDRESSED TO**

**J. Edgar Hoover, Esquire**



## TRANSLATION

## EMBASSY OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC IN THE UNITED STATES

Confidential

The Ambassador of France has learned from a reliable source, and has the honor to inform His Excellency the Under Secretary of State of the United States, for all pertinent purposes, that the following:

1. Paul Casel, of German nationality, who is said to be about to be entrusted with a mission of espionage in the United States;

2. Gaisenstein (first name unknown) of German nationality, who, it is said, will leave for the United States with Casel;

3. Pierre Ossipovitch Lamasskovitch, alias Rengert, of Russian nationality, chemical engineer, specialist in technical espionage, who is said to have sojourned for some time in Poland and who is said to be at present in the United States;

are agents in the Soviet Espionage Service.

Mr. Paul Claudel takes pleasure in availing himself of the opportunity to renew to His Excellency, the Honorable William R. Castle, the assurance of his high consideration.

Washington, July 30, 1932.

His Excellency

The Honorable William R. Castle,  
Under Secretary of State,  
Washington, D. C.

61-3499-28

CAA:KB

April 29, 1933.

61-3499-29

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge,  
United States Bureau of Investigation,  
Harley-Wright Building,  
Washington, D. C.

MAY 2 - 1933

Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith a copy of a letter dated April 22, 1933, sent to the Intelligence Division, Department of Justice, by [redacted], asking that an Agent be assigned to talk confidentially with him about Soviet Secret Service Agents in Washington, D. C. There is also enclosed the original so-called identification which was transmitted with the letter.

In view of the fact that this man appears to be connected with the United States Naval Academy, please assign a suitable Agent to interview him in order to ascertain what the matter is to which he refers. The Agent will, of course, understand that no investigation can be made of propaganda issued by Communists or other radicals, as this is not a violation of Federal Statutes. This should be explained to [redacted].

b7D

Very truly yours,

Enc. #332350.

Director.

RECEIVED	
MAY 1 1933 P.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
	FILE

CAAs:EB

April 29, 1933.

61-3499-29

RECORDED

b7D

MAY 2 - 1933

Dear Sir:

Your letter of April 22, 1933, addressed to the Intelligence Division, Department of Justice, has been referred to this Bureau, and an Agent will interview you.

Very truly yours,

Director.

This letter mailed in plain envelope.

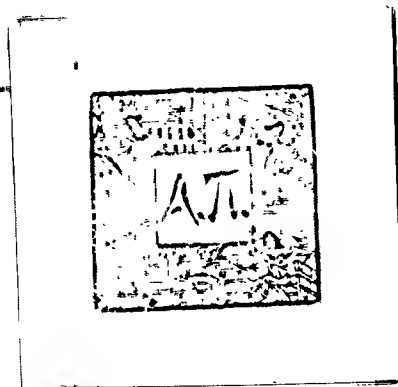
APR 29 1933

*[Handwritten signature]*



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

61-3499-29



69-3499-29

C O P Y

Department of Justice

April 22, 1933

Intelligence Division

Annapolis, Md.

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sirs:-

I like to talk ~~confidentially~~ about Soviet Secret Service agents in Washington, D. C.

May be you would order somebody (not Semitic) to come to Annapolis; best time is 4.30 p.m., when our office is closed.

Very truly, yours

Administration Bldg.  
U. S. Naval Academy

b7D

P. S. Enclosed find the identification for a person who will call me on.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

MAY 2 - 1933

ack + letter  
not made  
4-29-33  
Cao

61-3499-29	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
MAY 1 1933 P.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
Div. Four	FILE

American Secret Service Agents

Mr. Nathan.....  
Mr. Tolson.....  
Mr. Edwards.....  
Mr. Clegg.....

THE JAPAN CHRONICLE

MAY 23, 1933.

SHOWA, KOBE, JAPAN

## SECRET POLICE OF RUSSIA

WORKPEOPLE WHO DISAPPEAR

NOT BOUND BY LAW

Impressions of a fortnight's tour in Soviet Russia, and an analysis of the political principles on which its government is based, were given by Professor J. L. Stocks in two lectures on "The New Russia," delivered at a one-day school held by the North-western Division of the Workers' Educational Trade Union Committee in Manchester.

After describing the round of ordinary sight-seeing, which included a visit to the Kremlin, where he was "shocked to see the Government so strongly protected against the people it ruled," Professor Stocks spoke of the social organisation of the factories which he visited near Moscow, and of a magistrate's court which he attended. "The judge was a man of about 35," Professor Stocks said, "and on his right was a girl of about 18, nice looking, but I thought rather fanatical in appearance. On his left was an elderly man who might have belonged to any nation. He was of the foreman type. These two were the assessors. The person charged stood with his elbows on the table in front of him, and talked directly to the judge from a distance of about two feet away. The procedure seemed straightforward and simple enough for anyone to understand. I was told that one of the benches was occupied by lawyers, but they did not seem to be doing much.

### DISINGENUOUS GUIDE

"It was on this occasion that we had an instance of the disingenuousness of our guide. We asked him whether the same court and procedure would be used in the case of a political offence. He said that it would. Of course, it is not so. Everyone in Russia is frightened of the O.G.P.U., or secret police. The O.G.P.U., except in cases where it wants publicity, does not bring its prisoners into court at all."

Speaking of the effects of the economic depression, Professor Stocks said that in the towns there was a feeling of great vigour and optimism. The people knew they were — but believed

that may end in glittering prizes. If there were no freedom under the Soviet, the Soviet could not last."

At the afternoon session Professor Stocks spoke of the Russian revolution. One of the reasons why foreigners found it difficult to trust Soviet justice, he said, was that the system placed all the functions of government, legislative, executive, and judicial, in the same hands. This was a direct reversal of the doctrine of the "separation of powers," which had, since the eighteenth century, resulted in the tradition of an independent judiciary in almost every Western State.

### RAID ON RUSSIAN STATE BANK

GANGSTER HOLD-UP IN LENINGRAD

Helsingfors.

A daring raid on the Leningrad State Bank has just been carried out in broad daylight. At eleven o'clock in the morning, a party of armed men entered the central hall of the building and, threatening the officials and public with revolvers, made everybody lie down on the floor.

With methodical exactness and astonishing rapidity, the invaders then proceeded to rifle the tills and safes of all local and foreign currency, stuffing the booty into bags specially brought for the purpose. After accomplishing their object, the gangsters hurriedly dispersed.

The entire available force of the OGPU was mobilised, and a systematic but fruitless search of all suspected houses carried out. On the following day, however, a patrol of Chekists, on attempting to interrogate three suspicious-looking persons crossing the Znamenski Square, were greeted by a hail of bullets from the revolvers which the accosted men whipped from their pockets.

It is evident that gangster reinforcements were lurking in the neighbourhood as, at the first sound of the conflict, these immediately hurried to their comrades' assistance. After a pitched battle, reminiscent of Chicago at its worst, the bandits took to their heels, leaving four of their number in the hands of the Chekists.

A placard was left behind, bearing the words: "The Committee of Action against the thieves and destroyers of Russian Countrymen, be prepared for a general attack on the Red authorities!"

INDEXED

NOT RECORDED

61-3499-29X

Mr. Nathan.	✓
Mr. Tolson.	✓
Mr. Edwards.	✓
Mr. Clegg.	✓

## METHODS OF THE OGPU

### STATEMENT OF AN ESCAPED PRISONER

#### EXTORTING "CONFESSIONS"

Writing to the *Times* on the subject of the OGPU, Professor Tchernavin says:—

In the *Izvestia* of March 24th, 1933, the Chief Prosecutor of U.S.S.R., Vyshinsky, said, apropos the arrest in Moscow of the Englishmen employed by the Metropolitan-Vickers Company, that in U.S.S.R. the accused are not put to torture during the inquiry.

I was in the G.P.U. prison in Petersburg in 1930-31, accused of being a "wrecker." I affirm that the G.P.U. inquiry consisted solely in trying to obtain from the prisoners by means of moral and physical torture a confession of crimes they had not committed.

In a cell measuring 75 square yards more than a hundred of the accused were kept. The cell was infested with bugs and lice. Food was insufficient, and the diet was such that almost all the prisoners were ill with scurvy. They were kept in these conditions from six months to two or more years awaiting their sentence.

The investigating officer wanted me to sign a statement that "I plead guilty to being a wrecker." As I refused to do so, I was threatened, by way of "bringing pressure to bear" upon me: (1) That I would be shot; (2) that my wife would be arrested, and my son, a boy of 12, would be sent to an institution for vagrant children; (3) that my wife would be kept in prison during the whole of the inquiry into my case; (4) that my wife would be sent to penal servitude; (5) that unless I signed the statement

within three days I should be shot on the fourth day; (6) finally, I was taken in the night as though to be shot.

In spite of this I did not sign the false statement. Then they did not cross-examine me any more, and sent me without a trial to five years' penal servitude at the Solovetsky Concentration Camp, from where I escaped in August, 1932.

Prisoners who were in the same cell with me had the following measures applied to them in order to wring "confessions" from them:—(1) "Standing"—the prisoner was made to stand without food or drink or sleep for as long as six days and nights; (2) "the cold punishment cell," where the windows were kept open in winter and the prisoner was undressed; (3) "the wet punishment cell," where the floor was covered with water to the depth of 6in. to 10in., where there were no sanitary arrangements whatever and no bed—only a narrow bench to sit on; (4) "crowded cell"—as many as 300 people, men and women, were so crowded together that they had to stand closely

pressed against one another; the room was kept very hot and they were forbidden to sit or lie down. Few could endure more than six days of this; (5) "conveyer"—the accused were made to run, 40 people at a time, in procession from storey to storey, from room to room, until they signed what was required of them or fell down senseless. Cases of death, suicide, and madness among prisoners awaiting trial are very frequent.

These tortures were inflicted in Leningrad prisons chiefly upon educated people, including many well-known scholars and scientists. All the convicts whom I met at the Solovetsky Camp told me that the same methods were used by the G.P.U. in other parts of U.S.S.R. as well.

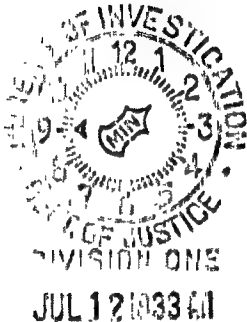
(Professor Vladimir Vyacheslavovitch Tchernavin, who was born in 1887, was from 1918 to 1923 senior assistant to the Professors of Biology and Zoology in the Petrograd Agronomical Institute, and from 1921 to 1923 was Professor of Ichthyology there. He took part in many scientific expeditions, and after 1923 de-

voted himself entirely to research work. From 1926 to 1930 he was in charge of the biological and technological laboratories of the Northern Fisheries Trust at Murmansk. He was arrested in October, 1930; but in August, 1932, he escaped to Finland, together with his wife and son, who came to visit him at the Solovetsky Concentration Camp).

INDEXED

NOT RECORDED

61-3499-29X1



U. S. Department of Justice  
**Bureau of Investigation**  
 311 Hurley Wright Building,  
 Washington, D. C.  
 May 6, 1933.

MAY 18 1933

DWA

*Let Kelly chief  
 Eng. C. H. Chapman  
 date 5-11-33  
 C.A.A.*

Director,  
 United States Bureau of Investigation,  
 Washington, D. C.

INDEXED

MAY 11 1933

61-3499-30	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
MAY 8 1933 A.M.	
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE	
Div. Four	FILE

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated April 29, 1933, transmitting a copy of a letter from one [redacted], in which he requests that an Agent be assigned to talk confidentially with him about Soviet Secret Service Agents in Washington, D. C.

On May 5, 1933, Special Agent R. E. Smith of this office called on [redacted] at the Administration Building, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland. [redacted] advised Agent Smith that he came to this country from his native country Russia a short time before the Russian Revolution; that he was a colonel in the Russian Imperial Guard and came to this country for the purpose of inspecting munitions for the Russian Imperial Government. [redacted] stated he stayed in this country after the revolution in Russia and became a naturalized citizen, at that time changing his name from [redacted]; that he has been employed for a number of years at the Naval Academy as a draftsman. [redacted] further advised that he is not in sympathy with the present ruling government in Russia and for that reason desired to report activities of certain Russians in Washington, D. C., who, he believes, are representatives of the present Communistic Government.

b7D

[redacted] stated that one Bogoluboff is, in his opinion, a member of the Russian Soviet Police, also known as the G.P.O., and that Bogoluboff is stationed in Washington, D. C., and is occupied in developing information as to all Russians who are living in Washington, D. C. [redacted] stated that this Bogoluboff is not accepted in the better Russian society in Washington and that other of his countrymen also believe Bogoluboff is connected with the Russian Soviet Police. [redacted] further advised that one Radionoff, who is in charge of the Slavic Section of the Library of Congress, is also thought to be connected with the present Soviet Government; that Radionoff's assistant at the Library of Congress, one Novojiltzebl, is thought also to be connected with the present Soviet Government, both being engaged by Bogoluboff seeking information about Russians living in Washington, D. C. [redacted] stated that Novojiltzebl

G.P.U.

*American Secret Service*

-2-

mixes a good deal in the society of Naval Officers in Washington, D. C., and that it is his belief that he is possibly trying to gain some information concerning the American Navy for the Soviet Government. [ ]

[ ] also advised that Mrs. O. V. Grancoff, who operates a beauty parlor in Washington is also connected with Bogoluboff in developing information as to Russians in Washington, D. C. [ ] further stated that a Mrs. Pavlorsky is employed by the Soviet Government and is spreading communistic propaganda in Washington, D. C.

Agent Smith advised [ ] that the matters reported by him could not be investigated by this Bureau as they do not constitute violations of any Federal Statute.

b7D

In view of the fact that the information reported by [ ] to Special Agent Smith does not constitute a violation of any Federal Statute over which this Bureau has jurisdiction, no further investigation will be made in this case.

Very truly yours,

*R. E. Newby*  
R. E. NEWBY,  
Acting Special Agent in Charge.

RES:JGM  
#62-2462

KRM:LLB

61-3499-34 October 26, 1939

RECORDED

INDEXED

Special Agent in Charge  
New York, New York

RE: SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES - GENERAL

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the letter from the New York office dated October 12, 1939, styled SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES - GENERAL.

It is noted that confidential informant [ ] has furnished your office with information concerning alleged agents of the O.G.P.U. operating in New York, San Francisco and New Orleans. It is noted, however, that your office did not furnish copies of the said letter to the San Francisco and New Orleans offices. It is desired that these copies be furnished to the said offices immediately upon the receipt of this letter. It is further desired that the New York office undertake immediate efforts to develop [ ] into a confidential informant for Bureau purposes. The New York office should also develop all possible information concerning the activities of George Hagner. Upon receipt of appropriate information by the San Francisco and New Orleans offices from the New York office, to San Francisco office should immediately undertake an investigation of alleged activities of Erick Krawit, alias Erick Rigs. The New Orleans office should likewise undertake immediate investigation concerning a person known as Longfors.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

cc - San Francisco  
New Orleans

b7D

ORIGINAL FILED

3  
90

New York, N. Y.

JBL:RAA  
61-307

October 12, 1939

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Re: SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES - GENERAL

Dear Sir:

In connection with information being obtained by Confidential Informant [REDACTED] he advises that he has been successful in contacting one [REDACTED]. Preliminary information regarding [REDACTED] as furnished by [REDACTED] reflects that [REDACTED] was a member of the Comintern and a person entrusted with confidential missions for the Soviet Control Commission, the OGPU, and the Soviet Military Intelligence, and in this capacity to have organized Communistic strikes and disturbances in Europe and the United States, having been deported from the United States several years ago for his Communistic activities. Because of his TROTSKY leaning, [REDACTED] broke off with a STALIN faction in 1938 while on a secret mission to Germany. The OGPU agents, desiring to make him harmless, denounced him to the Gestapo, resulting in his arrest and confinement in a concentration camp with his wife and son. [REDACTED] is reported to have died, and his son to have been lost.

[REDACTED] escaped from the concentration camp, and as a seaman arrived in the United States at Norfolk, Virginia, where, despite strict immigration surveillance, he jumped it and came to New York.

RECORDED & INDEXED

[REDACTED] advises that [REDACTED] has considerable information regarding the Gestapo and the OGPU, but fears for his life, that he was a subject of several attacks which has resulted in the deafening of one ear. [REDACTED] describes him as very tall, dark complexion, medium weight; he speaks good English and [REDACTED]

61-3499-31

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
OCT 15 1939
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
TAMM

ORIGINAL FILED IN

b7D



BL:RAA  
 1-507

October 12, 1939

favorable impression, and is a German and a Christian. [ ] claims to have contacted [ ] through EUGENE LYONS, Editor of the American Mercury, and has been endeavoring to elicit information from him under the pretense of writing an article for the American Mercury entitled, "Powers Behind the Props," in which he proposes to expose the real people who are directing the activities of Nazi, Bund, Fascist, and Communist activities in the United States.

b7D

According to [ ], he questioned BEN STOLBERG, SUZANNE LaFOLLETTE, ISAAC DON LEVINE (KRAVITSKY'S ghost writer), and others, all of whom are of the unanimous opinion that [ ] is the only man in the United States who possesses genuine information concerning these activities and is "not a factor".

[ ] further reports that several months ago [ ] met one GEORGE HEGNER on South Street in New York City. HEGNER is reported to be of Danish origin, to have spent several years in Russia, and to hold a Soviet military commission. HEGNER is reported to be the resident member of the Comintern in New York for the eastern states, and at the same time to be the local Open man. His address is unknown to [ ], but he is reported to frequent a large cafeteria on South Street, near Battery Place. HEGNER'S picture is reported to appear in the Danish trade union publication "Facklien" in Copenhagen, which photograph was taken with a group of firemen in the year 1930 to 1934. HEGNER is described as a man of medium size, very strongly built, and according to [ ] information, it is believed that HEGNER'S photograph must be available through the Koenigliche Polizei Direction (Danish Police). HEGNER is reported to be the man who informed the Gestapo concerning [ ] activities.

b7D

[ ] further informs that the local representative of the Comintern on the West Coast is ERICK KRAWIT, alias Erick Rigs. KRAWIT is reported to be a German and to be very successful in operating among foreign workmen's clubs, which he endeavors to turn Communistic, as well as native American clubs, where he has quite a following. According to [ ], KRAWIT is ruthless, very violent, and is also a member of the Control Committee of the Communist Party of America. There is supposed

EL:RAA  
1-507

October 12, 1939

to be some sort of a tie-up between KRAWIT and Mayor ROSSI of San Francisco.

[ ] further reports that the local Comintern agent, an OGPU man for the southern part of the United States, is an Englishman by the name of LONGFORS, who operates from New Orleans. According to [ ], all members of the Control Committee of the Communist Party in the United States are also members of the OGPU.

[ ] also reported that one DR. SILSON is very active in the Communist Party in the United States. Other than the fact that DR. SILSON is located in New York City, [ ] has been unable to furnish any additional information to date.

With further reference to [ ], it may be noted that during the call at [ ] apartment on the evening of October 2, 1939, [ ] introduced a party to Agent LITTLE, without disclosing LITTLE'S identity, as [ ]. This individual was observed for only a few moments as Agent LITTLE took his departure. His description, however, from personal observation, appears to be as follows:

b7D

Age	About 30
Height	6' 1"
Weight	180 lbs.
Build	Medium
Hair	Black
Eyes	Dark
Features	Coarse
Teeth	Two or three missing on the upper right jaw

[ ] does not speak very good English and appears to be rather awkward in his posture

Very truly yours,

P. E. FOXWORTH  
Special Agent in Charge

KRM:CJ

~~61-7555-5234~~~~61-7617-1X~~~~66-2542-4348~~

61-3499-

32

The Honorable

The Secretary of State

Washington, D. C.

November 30, 1939

My dear Mr. Secretary:

This Bureau has under investigation at the present time an individual by the name of George Hegner. It is reported that Hegner's photograph appeared in the Danish Trade Union publication "FACKLIEN" in Copenhagen. It is said that the photograph was taken with a group of firemen in the years 1930 to 1934. Hegner's photograph is also believed to be available through the

I will greatly appreciate the efforts of your Department to obtain a photograph of Hegner for the use of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

b7D

New York, N. Y.

JBL:AM  
61-507

November 3, 1939

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.Re: SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES -  
General.

Dear Sir:

Referring to Bureau letter dated October 26, 1939, (Bureau file 61-7559) there are being transmitted to the San Francisco and New Orleans Offices with copies of this letter copies of the letter addressed to the Bureau by the New York Office dated October 12, 1939, containing information submitted by Confidential Informant [ ] in order that appropriate investigation may be instituted by the San Francisco Office with reference to the alleged activities of ERICK KRAWIT alias ERICK RIGGS, and by the New Orleans Office with reference to an individual known as LONGFORS.

In accordance with Bureau instructions steps are being taken to develop [ ] whose name has since been learned to be [ ] into a confidential informant.

With reference to Bureau instructions contained in letter of reference to the effect that the New York Office should also institute investigation to develop all possible information concerning the activities of GEORGE HEGNER, the Bureau's attention is invited to the fact that information furnished by confidential informant [ ] as set forth in the New York letter of October 12, 1939, indicates that Hegner's picture is reported to appear in the Danish trade union publication "Fackliet" in Copenhagen, which photograph was taken with a group of firemen in the years 1930 to 1934, and that Hegner's photograph is also believed to be available through the [ ]

In connection with the investigation of Hegner it is requested that the Bureau endeavor to secure a photograph of Hegner through the [ ] in order to facilitate the investigation at New York.

Very truly yours,

P. S. FOAMORTH  
Special Agent in Charge2cc-New Orleans  
2cc-San Francisco

b7D

61-3499-32  
NOV 15 1939  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

New York, N. Y.

JHL:KM  
61-507

October 26, 1939

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: ~~COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES~~  
Subversive Activities.

Dear Sir:

With reference to further information submitted by confidential informant [REDACTED] concerning Communist activities coming to his attention, he has been in further contact with [REDACTED] whose true name has since been found to be [REDACTED]. According to information furnished by [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] the most optimistic figure of membership in the Communist Party of the United States is placed at 60,000, 30,000 of which are active Party members, the remainder being "traveling companions." The number of active Communists is reported to be dropping all the time, the sharpest decline having occurred since the Hitler-Stalin pact. [REDACTED] states that while the Communist Party of the United States compared with the Communist Party in other countries is one of the smallest and not important from the viewpoint of the Comintern especially as it is built on the intellectual lines, it is necessary not to overlook certain aspects of its structure which make it very effective in the event of any sabotage activities.

The Party itself is divided into several units according to [REDACTED] as the Comintern, OGPU, Military, Naval and Industrial Intelligence, the Central Committee and the so-called aparat. The aparat is an operating unit composed of old trusted members of the Communist Party who are working in all important industries and who have members connected with all the United States Government and Military agencies. Under this it is to be understood that the Communists occupy positions in the Military and Naval Intelligence of the United States and agencies of the Federal Government.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

61-3497-33	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
DEC 5 1939	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
TAMM	FWO

Director  
October 26, 1939  
61-507

From the members of the aparat OGPU agents are recruited and later sent to Russia to school returning to the United States. It is very difficult to ascertain their names as they are in general using aliases which they frequently change, as well as their residences. However, [ ] points out that the members of the aparat are the most dangerous of all the units of the Communist Party. [ ] claims to know several members of the aparat whom he would recognize on sight but does not know where they are or where they work at present. According to [ ], [ ] claims that George Mink is at present in New York having returned last year from Spain where he was instrumental in killing a score of people both Communists and Nationalists. He described Mink as small in stature, dark hair, definite Jewish type, very silent, always carries a gun, is very clever and definitely the most important member of the OGPU in the United States. [ ] does not know where Mink resides.

Other information furnished by [ ] to [ ] in this respect relates to the fact that [ ] knows the Party members in the electrical plants of the City of New York, in the water stations and other places; that the most important meetings take place on the streets, in public places and parks but never in an apartment or a restaurant. [ ] states that he is maintaining further contacts with [ ] in an effort to secure more definite information along these lines, no detailed data regarding the Communist activities having been secured by him from [ ] to date.

b7D

[ ] submitted the following information concerning Communists: Morris H. Childs, State Secretary of the Communist Party for Illinois, is Polish and is in charge of propaganda work among Polish and Czech workmen. K. B. Gebert, member of the Communist Party in New York and an agitator among Polish workmen in Chicago and Detroit, having spoken before a mass meeting in the Mirror Hall in Chicago on September 8th last.

Further information received from [ ] in this respect will be forwarded to the Bureau. N.T. cards will be prepared and forwarded to the Bureau on the names contained in this letter.

Very truly yours,

P. E. FOXWORTH  
Special Agent in Charge

MCJ

C O P Y

EAT:DM

November 24, 1939

Special Agent in Charge  
New York, New York

RECORDED  
- 2499-34  
Dear Sir:

I have received your letter of November 14, 1939, concerning the employment of [ ] as an informant in German matters. From the information furnished by you it appears that [ ] is known to the German Secret Service as being unreliable and also marked by that Service "for liquidation". In view of this situation I am unable to understand how this man can produce any information or data of value. I, of course, have no objection to your maintaining him on the payroll as an informant while he is in a position to furnish valuable information, but I frankly cannot understand how a man who is considered unreliable by the elements with whom he was formerly associated, can be productive of any current information of value to you.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

b7D

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

b6  
b7C

New York, N. Y.

JBL:KM  
61-507

November 14, 1939

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

Re: SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES;  
General.  
(Bureau file 61-7559)

Dear Sir:

With reference to Bureau letter dated October 26, 1939, [REDACTED] was interviewed on November 13, 1939, by Special Agent J. B. Little with a view to developing [REDACTED] into a confidential informant. [REDACTED] hereafter will be referred to as confidential informant [REDACTED].

b7D

[REDACTED] was contacted through confidential informant [REDACTED] who is unaware of the fact that the Bureau Agent subsequently arranged an interview with [REDACTED].

For the information of the Bureau, [REDACTED] resides in [REDACTED] New York City, and can be contacted only through [REDACTED] who resides at [REDACTED] and the Bureau are the only ones aware of [REDACTED] residence address.

[REDACTED] arrived in the United States in March of 1938 aboard the British steamship Arey Lansen. He was connected with the Comintern as a Comintern instructor from 1923 until January 1938 at which time he tendered his resignation in Paris. His resignation was brought about through the attempts of the Soviet to liquidate him as a result of his tipping off a friend in the Soviet service who had been ordered to Germany ostensibly in the service of the Soviet but actually to be delivered into the hands of the Gestapo by pre-arrangement for liquidation. After this friend had revealed [REDACTED] interest in his behalf, [REDACTED] was held prisoner in Copenhagen, Denmark, for three weeks with instructions to return to Leningrad for further orders from which he was able to escape again eluding OGPU agents in Amsterdam shortly thereafter, and in Paris was instructed to enlist in the Loyalist

b7D



Director  
61-507  
November 14, 1939

cause for service in Spain, but was tipped off to the effect that this was merely a ruse to deliver him into the hands of the OGPU in Barcelona, and it was on this occasion that he resigned from his service with the Comintern. As a result of his activities his wife who was in Germany was placed in a concentration camp by the Gestapo and subsequently died while in custody and at this time he has no knowledge as to the whereabouts of his seven year old son who was in Germany with his wife. [ ] has two brothers and two sisters in Germany, [ ] himself being a native of Hamburg. [ ] was also incarcerated in a concentration camp in Germany from November 1933 to August 1937 because of his activities with the Comintern.

[ ] states that following his arrival in the United States he obtained papers granting him a limited stay in the United States from the Secretary of State and at the present time is seeking any type of employment that he can get. While in the service of the Comintern he was in the United States off and on from 1924 to 1929 in the interest of establishing contacts between the Pacific Coast and the Far East for the purpose of transporting Communist literature to Japan. He was replaced by George Hardy, an Englishman, who has since been purged.

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[ ] appears to be educated, clean-cut and expressed a desire to be of any assistance possible in revealing the activities of the heads of the Communist movement and developing any information that he may be able to concerning the work of the Gestapo and the OGPU. It is believed that [ ] can be of service to the Bureau in its present work in connection with investigations of sabotage activities and espionage at least for a short time and in the absence of Bureau instructions to the contrary he is being employed as a confidential informant at the rate of \$30. a week.

Very truly yours,

P. E. FOXWORTH  
Special Agent in Charge